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# BOXBOROUGH:

A NEW ENGLAND TOWN  
AND ITS PEOPLE.

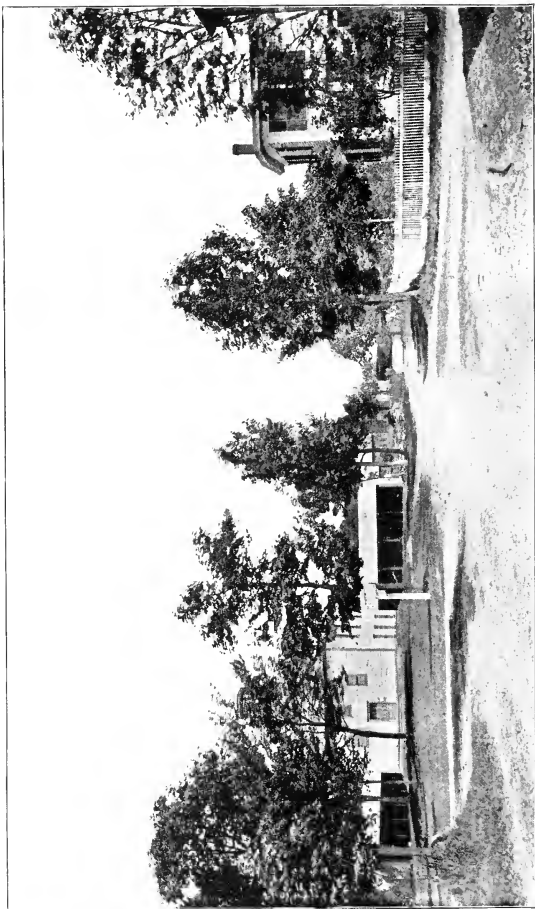












CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

R. T. COBLEIGH'S HOUSE

PARSONAGE.

# BOXBOROUGH:

## A New England Town and Its People.

COMPILED FOR THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY HISTORY.

With Sketches and Illustrations, Additional,

BY

LUCIE CAROLINE HAGER.

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be, and  
that which is done is that which shall be done: and there  
is no new thing under the sun."

PUBLISHED BY

J. W. LEWIS & CO., Philadelphia.

1891.

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TRANSFERRED TO LUCIE C. HAGER.

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LUCIE C. HAGER.

# PREFACE.

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I have been led to believe, by conversation upon the subject with some of the older residents of the place, that a history of Boxborough printed in a small volume, separately from "The History of Middlesex County," would be favorably received by many of those who are interested in the welfare of the town, or who have been connected with it from early years.

I therefore issue the book in its present form. It is with some misgivings that these pages are placed before the citizens of Boxborough, many of whom are familiar with its history from the beginning. For besides laboring under the disadvantage of having been a resident of the town, and acquainted with it, only a few years, I have been obliged to glean a part of the facts from somewhat incomplete town and church records, and the rest from the personal recollections of the people. Upon perusal, therefore, should errors become apparent to any, the author asks for lenient criticism.

For myself, I would say, I have become very much interested in the town and also in its early inhabitants while engaged in studying and writing this history.

I wish here to express my indebtedness to Messrs. J. W. Lewis and Co., for according to me the privilege of using, in this volume, whatever material was recently published in the Middlesex County History under the head of "Boxborough;" also, to assure my friends of my gratitude for and appreciation of their many efforts in my behalf while I have been engaged

in this work. Suggestions, scraps of information, use of records and genealogies, etc., have been freely given, and very helpful. And, further, in this last venture, for assistance in interesting and securing subscribers, I would render my sincere thanks.

Thanks are hereby given, also, for the engraving of the Congregational Church, which was presented by The Ladies' Circle, and for the engraving of the Town Hall, the gift of Deacon S. B. Hager.

LUCIE C. HAGER.

# BOXBOROUGH.

COMPILED BY LUCIE C. HAGER.

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THE HISTORY OF BOXBOROUGH.



# BOXBOROUGH:

## A NEW ENGLAND TOWN AND ITS PEOPLE.

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### CHAPTER I.

EARLY HISTORY — FORMATION — SCENERY — SITUATION —  
REASON FOR NEW TOWN — HARVARD MEETING-HOUSE —  
PETITION TO GENERAL COURT — ACT OF INCORPORATION.

SOME one has said, "Time, like distance, lends enchantment to the view, and the pictures of the past, seen through the mellow light of centuries, become soft and beautiful to the sight, like the shadowy outlines of far-off mountain peaks, whose purple heads half hide themselves behind a screen of clouds." The men and women who lived, and loved, and labored, and reared their homes among these hills and in these valleys, a hundred years ago and more, had they been interrogated, would doubtless have replied, as did one of the present citizens when questioned with regard to his ancestry, "Oh no, we never did anything remarkable, nothing worthy of notice." And yet to us of the present day, as we gaze down the vista of the departed years, their words and acts are of very great interest and importance, and the labors and the toils which to them may have seemed to bear such meagre fruitage, are to us, after the lapse of more than a century, invested, as it were, with a halo of glory.

We look back still farther into the past, through another century or more, and lo! the red man is lord of all these sunny slopes and vales: and here, wild and free as his own native hills, he made the forest his hunting-ground. We are informed by early historians that the Rev. John Eliot of Roxbury visited this region some time in the seventeenth century. He was a philanthropic man and an earnest Christian. With him came General Daniel Gookin, the historian, who had in charge at that time, as an agent of the Government, all the Indian tribes in Massachusetts. Here they found the chief of the Nashoba Indians, John Tokatawan, and the venerable Eliot preached and prayed in the open air, and James Speen and his Indian choir sang a psalm. But early in the eighteenth century the white men sought a place in this region where they might build their log huts, found their homes, and rear their families. We of today can scarcely realize through what difficulties and dangers the first permanent settlements were made.

Boxborough was formed by taking a portion from three adjoining towns,—the largest part from Stow, a smaller portion from Littleton, and a piece of Harvard making up the town whose outline—until the recent change in the Littleton boundary—was nearly a square. Previous to 1750 the boundary line between Stow and Littleton was near where the present town-house stands, running in a south-easterly direction past the house now owned and occupied by Mr. E. B. Cobleigh, which was then in Stow, and onward to a heap of stones in a field in front of Mr. Furbush's dwelling, thence in the direction of Mr. Herbert Blanchard's residence.

Boxborough, though the smallest town in Middlesex county, is yet "beautiful for situation." From her lofty hill-tops the true lover of nature is never weary of gazing on the panorama of beauty which is everywhere spread out before him. Which-ever way he turns—north, east, south, or west—pictures of rare rural loveliness greet his eye and delight his soul. No wonder that her sons and daughters love and are proud of their birthplace. Said one of her former residents, as he came up to an annual gathering "in the old meeting-house on the hill"

(now the town hall): "I always feel as if I was nearer Heaven when I come up this hill,"—words lightly spoken, doubtless, and yet they should be true, for surely when one long since gone forth from his early home to active, earnest life among men returns again and feels his feet pressing once more the soil of his own native hills, hallowed by so many happy and sacred associations; when his eyes behold again, as in his youthful days, the delightful scenery so familiar grown; when his hand clasps the hand of neighbor and friend as in early youth, and his ears hear as of old the loved voices of his childhood,—he may feel more nearly akin to the early days of free-hearted innocence and happiness, and therefore "nearer Heaven."

To the eastward, in the distance, the gleaming church spires designate the position of the three Acton villages, while in a southerly direction the new city of Marlborough lies quietly resting upon her sister hills. Turning toward the western horizon, Monadnock, Wachusett and other eminences meet the eye, while to the north-east, the village spires of Littleton and Westford are visible amid the distant trees.

The residents on the outskirts of the towns mentioned,—Stow, Littleton and Harvard,—drawn there probably by the fertility of the soil, tilled their farms and raised their crops, but found themselves subjected to much inconvenience through their remoteness from any place of public worship. So they formed a society among themselves, purchased the old meeting-house in Harvard in 1775, and then petitioned the General Court to be set off as a separate town.

The town is situated in the west central part of Middlesex county, and is bounded north by Harvard and Littleton, east by Littleton and Acton, south by Stow, and west by Harvard. From the assessors' report for the year 1889 we have the following: 6,428 acres of land; total valuation of assessed estate, \$246,705; polls, 108; number of scholars in the public schools, 63. According to the census of 1885 the population was 348; in 1850 it numbered 395; and in 1837 the number was 433. The number of voters in 1889 was 76; in 1834 the number was 99. In 1847 the whole valuation was \$268,913. The

amount of taxes for 1889 was 2,840.71; in 1847 the amount was 1,299.08. In the town safe, in very good condition, there is an outline map on parchment by Silas Holman—scale two hundred rods to an inch. His survey was made in 1794, and the area given is 7,036 acres and 100 rods. By a comparison of some of the foregoing figures, it would seem that the town had been slowly losing ground for at least a half century. There seem to be good reasons for this. It has been a farming community from the first; but although smallest in population of any town in Middlesex county, it yet ranks second only in agriculture. The value of its agricultural products in 1885 was \$92,349. But it is situated at a distance from market towns and main thoroughfares; though two busy streams, Stony Brook and Assabet river, have their source here, it has no water-power of its own by which the many industries of the present age are carried forward to so great an extent in other places; it has not the advantage of being a railroad centre.

The Fitchburg Railroad skirts its eastern border, with stations at both Littleton and Acton—a flag station at Hoar's Crossing in Boxborough—and that is all; it was of later incorporation than any of the other towns about us. As a farming town it began its existence over a century ago, and as such it is destined to remain. There is no employment other than farming to call in those from without, and her own sons and daughters are drawn away to other towns and cities in the hope of enjoying their greater advantages. A good town for one's birthplace; a good place to begin the culture of those sterling qualities which shall grow and increase and actuate in all the affairs of after-life.

As I look at the materials before me for the making of this history of Boxborough, gathered in many different ways and brought together under various heads and dates, I feel as though it would be, at least, a saving of thought and labor, could one do what the "projector" in Gulliver's Travels was trying to accomplish; viz., the writing of books of philosophy, poetry, politics, laws, mathematics, theology and history (?) without any assistance whatever from study or genius, by



simply throwing upon a frame all the words of his vocabulary. — in the “ordinary proportion of verbs, participles, nouns,” etc., — and then setting his pupils at the work of grinding out the various tomes. But upon second thought it would be better, doubtless, to classify and bring under the correct dates and headings these facts and incidents of early times.

As we have already remarked, it was for convenience of public worship, not the desire for a new town, that first led the residents of these remote portions of three other towns to band themselves together. The purchase of a church building has also been alluded to. In an ancient record purporting to be “The Town Book for Births and Deaths and Strays and Poor Persons for Boxborough,” we find the following: —

“At a meeting Held on the 31 Day of January, 1775, By a Sartain Society part Belonging to Stow and part of Littleton and part of Harvard, at the house of Ens Abel Fletcher, in order to Erect a meatting-house for the publick worship of God — 1ly. chose Mr. Coolidge Moderator, 2ly. Chose Mr. Bennet Wood of Littleton, and Mr. Joseph Stone of Stow, a Committee for purchasing Harvard Old meatting-House.

A Covenant to indemnify s<sup>d</sup> Committee:

This may certify that we the subscribers Do Covenant and engage with Each other that we will pay our subscriptions as is hereafter set Down towards purchasing the Old meatting hous of Harvard, for which purpose we have chosen Mr. Bennet Wood of Littleton and Mr. Joseph Stone of Stow to Represent and act for us at a vandue in order for Sail of s<sup>d</sup> House on the Second Day of February next and Do engage hereby to fulfill according as they the s<sup>d</sup> Bennet Wood and Joseph Stone Shall bid or otherways agre at s<sup>d</sup> vandue, in testimony thereof we Do hereunto set our hands this 31 Day of January, 1775.

Silas Wetherbee	.	.	One-quarter part.
-----------------	---	---	-------------------

Edward Brown	.	.	One-sixteenth part.
--------------	---	---	---------------------

				£	s.	d.
Joseph Stone	.	.	.	2	0	0

Samuel Wetherbee	.	.	.	3	0	0
------------------	---	---	---	---	---	---

	£	s.	d.
Phineas Wetherbee . . . .	1	10	0
Abel Fletcher . . . .	2	0	0
Reuben Wetherbee . . . .	1	4	0
John Taylor . . . .	1	12	0
Ephraim Whitcomb . . . .	2	0	0
Oliver Taylor . . . .	0	18	0
Solomon Taylor . . . .	0	18	0
Henry Coolidge . . . .	2	0	0
Levi Wetherbee . . . .	0	18	0
James Whitcomb, Jun. . . .	0	18	0
Abel Whitcomb . . . .	2	0	0
Boston Draper . . . .	2	0	0
Lieut. Daniel Wetherbee . . . .	1	10	0

Edward Wetherbee, 2,000 of shingles. 3 ly. Voted to adjourn to meatting hous Spot."

Then the society met and voted to accept the Committee's report, and farther "voted to take down s<sup>d</sup> Old meatting house and move it to the spot agreed upon By s<sup>d</sup> Society and Raise the Same." Mr. Silas Wetherbee is recorded as making a present to the society of three acres of land "for the use of a meatting hous Lot." Record is also made of the pecuniary aid rendered by each member of the new society, and of the work performed upon the newly purchased house of worship. Nov. 25, 1776, the society "voted to Except of the Report of the Committee Chosen to Examine accounts for work done which is as followeth :

	£	s.	d.	q.
Daniel Wetherbee . . . .	26	17	9	2
Abel Fletcher . . . .	17	12	1	2
Ephraim Whitcomb . . . .	25	13	1	2
Samuel Wetherbee . . . .	19	7	10	2
James Whitcomb, Jr. . . .	26	17	10	2
Abel Whitcomb . . . .	19	0	10	2
Phineas Wetherbee . . . .	12	12	1	2
Henry Cooledge . . . .	9	15	1	2
Bennet Wood . . . .	31	13	8	2

			£	s.	d.	q.
Oliver Taylor	.	.	21	19	7	2
Solomon Taylor	.	.	34	1	1	2
Boston Draper	.	.	11	16	7	2

Old ten.

We the subscribers Being appointed a Committee to Examine the accounts of the Society of Stow, Littleton, and Harvard have accordingly Examined the Same and we find Due for Each man above Named to pay the sum as set against his Name in the List above written."

In 1777, November 24, the society again met and "voted to chuse a Committee to Petition the General Cort to Sett of s<sup>d</sup> Society," and they accordingly chose Silas Taylor, James Whitcomb and Bennet Wood a committee for this purpose. The new society seems to have been unsuccessful in their efforts in this direction at the first, but committees were repeatedly chosen from among her citizens to present the petition to the General Court, and June 14, 1779, they voted to apply to Mr. Francis Dana, attorney, — of whom Hon. Richard H. Dana was a grandson, — "to Carry on our Memorialist Petition and Present it to the General Court, and voted \$100 for that purpose." But the attorney's efforts, even, must have failed, or the \$100 was too small a sum to attract him to the cause for a sufficient length of time, for during the next four years the names of committees from among the citizens are often recorded. In 1780, when a committee was again chosen to apply to the General Court to be set off, they also voted "to chuse a committee to treat with the obstinate part of Our Society in Littleton." The "obstinate party" is referred to again a little later. It is not strange that the towns called upon to yield up a part of their own territory to form a new town should make objection, but there is no record of any demur on the part of either Stow or Harvard. Littleton seems to have been opposed to the transaction from the beginning. Three times more — December, 1780, January, 1782, and January 21, 1783 — the same petition is presented to the General Court, and at last, after a six

years' struggle, on the 24th of February, 1783, the petition is granted. The following is a copy of the Act of Incorporation :

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty-three.—An Act for Erecting a District in the County of Middlesex by the name of Boxborough.

WHEREAS a number of Inhabitants living in the Extreme Parts of the Towns of Stow, Harvard and Littleton, Labour under many Inconveniences by Reason of their grate distance from any Place of Publick Worship and have Requested this Court that they May be Incorporated into a District with all the Privileges of a town, that of sending a Representative to the General Court Excepted — Be it therefore Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court Assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That a Part of Stow, a Part of Harvard and a Part of Littleton, all which are Included within the Boundaries following, viz: Beginning at the Road Southerly of John Robins' Buildings, and Running Southerly in Acton line to a Place called Flag hill, being two miles, three-quarters and ten rods to a heap of Stones; from thence Westerly in Stow, Two miles and a quarter to a Stake and Pillar of Stones in the Harvard Line, then turning Northerly through part of Harvard to a white oak tree by a Causeway; from thence to the Place first Set out from, be and hereby is incorporated into a District by the Name of Boxborough. And all the Polls and Estates that are Included within the said Boundaries shall belong to the said District, Except those of such of the Inhabitants of that Part Set off from Littleton as Shall not, within the Term of twelve months from the Passing of this act Return their Names into the office of the Secretary of this Common-wealth, Signifying their Desire to become Inhabitants of the said District. And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid that the said District be and hereby is invested with all the Powers, Privileges and Immunities that Towns in this Common-wealth do or may Injoy, Except the Privilege of Sending a Representative to the General Court, and the Inhabitants of the said District Shall have leave, from time to time, to join with the Town of Stow in Choosing a Representative, and shall be notified of the Time and Place of Election in Like manner with the Inhabitants of the said Town of Stow by a Warrant from the Selectmen of the said Town to a Constable or Constables of the said District, Requiring him or them to warn the Inhabitants to attend the meeting at the time and Place appointed, which warrant shall be Seasonably Returned by the said Constable or Constables of the said District, and the Representative may be Chosen Indifferently from the said Town or District, the Pay or allowance to be borne by the town and District in Proportion as they shall, from time to time, Pay to the State Tax; and be it further Enacted that Jonathan Wood, Esq., of Stow, be and hereby is empowered to Issue this Warrant, directed to some Principal Inhabitant within the said District, Requiring him to warn the Inhabitants of the said District, Qualified to vote in Town affairs, to assemble at some Suitable time and Place in the said District to Chuse Such officers as Towns and Districts

are required to Chuse in the month of March annually, Provided, Nevertheless, that the Inhabitants of the said District Shall Pay their Proportionable Part of all Such Town, County and State Taxes as are already assessed by the said Respective Towns from which they are taken, and their proportionable part of all Publick Debts Due from the said Towns, and also Provide for the Support of all the Poor who were Inhabitants within the said District before the passing of this Act, and shall be Brought back for maintenance Hereafter. And whereas it is fit and Necessary that the whole of the said District should belong to one and the same County, be it therefore further Enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that that Part of the said District which is set off from the Town of Harvard, in the County of Worcester, shall be and hereby is annexed and set to the County of Middlesex, and the line established by this act as the Boundaries betwixt the said Town of Harvard and the said District, shall hereafter be the boundary Line betwixt the said County of Middlesex and the said County of Worcester.

This instrument bears the signatures of Samuel Adams, president of the Senate, and John Hancock, Governor.

## CHAPTER II.

DISTRICT OFFICERS—BOUNDARY TROUBLES—ESTATES TRANSFERRED — LOCATION OF BOUNDARIES — WORKING OF NEW DISTRICT — TOWN HALL — INCIDENTS — ROADS — FITCHBURG RAILROAD — POLITICAL.

ACCORDINGLY, Jonathan Wood, Justice of the Peace of Stow, issued the warrant — notifying and warning all voters to assemble at the meeting-house that they might perfect their organization by the election of the customary officers — to Bennet Wood, one of the principal inhabitants of the new District of Boxborough. To the people of today the officers chosen and the offices filled, on that 10th of March, 1783, may not be without interest, and we give them entire. Jonathan Wood, Esq., presided as moderator.

Capt. Silas Taylor was chosen clerk of the District: Capt. Silas Taylor, Silas Wetherbee, Ens. Abel Fletcher, Lieut. James Whitcomb, Lieut. Ephraim Whitcomb, selectmen; Capt. Phineas Taylor, treasurer; Capt. Silas Taylor, Abel Whitcomb, Lieut. Ephraim Whitecomb, assessors; Joseph Howe, Lieut. James Whitcomb, Bennet Wood, constables; Bennet Wood, Paul Hayward, wardens; Judah Wetherbee, Capt. Eleazer Fletcher, tithing-men: Oliver Mead, Ephraim Taylor, Bennet Wood, Oliver Taylor, highway surveyors and collectors; Oliver Wood, sealer of leather; Edward Brown, Thomas Lawrence, fish-reeves; Capt. Phineas Taylor, Lieut. Nehemiah Batchellor, deer-reeves; Joseph Raymond, Boston Draper, hog-reeves; Richard Wetherbee, Ebenezer Phillips, fence-viewers; Phineas Wetherbee, Ephraim Wetherbee, firewards; Jonathan Wetherbee, Joseph Sawyer, field-drivers; Edward Brown,

Solomon Taylor, surveyors of boards and shingles; Jonathan Wood, justice of the peace.

From time to time other officers were chosen, as pound-keeper, surveyor of lumber, hoops and staves, vendue-master, sexton, etc.

The disinclination, on the part of Littleton, towards the new district, was a difficulty which did not seem to adjust itself in later years, and down through the century, even to the present time, the disagreement may be traced. There was a great deal of trouble about the boundaries, although they were described and established by the letter of the act of incorporation already given. All the polls and estates within the given limits were to belong to the new district except those of such of the inhabitants set off from Littleton as should not return their names to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth within a year from the passing of the act. So although the boundary was designated between Littleton and Boxborough, the people of the Littleton part were left to go or come — as they chose — to pay their taxes to the mother town as before, although residents of the new district. The towns were continually in trouble over the boundary line. It was at last referred to the General Court, and an act fixing the boundary was passed February 20, 1794. This act also gave permission to those of Littleton who had not returned their names, “their polls and their estates,” who still voted and were assessed in Littleton, “to belong to said Littleton” so long as this state of things continued; that such persons might at any time apply to said Boxborough to become members thereof, and, upon vote of her inhabitants, be accepted as citizens of Boxborough, with their polls and estates.

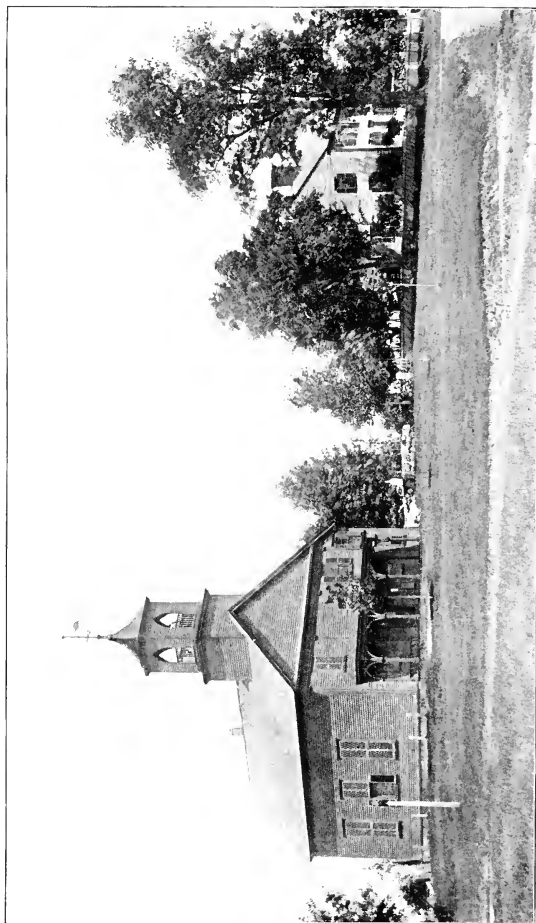
In 1791 the district voted to invite all within the bounds of Boxborough who had not joined with the said town to become members of the same. And they came from time to time, until there were only two farms — those of H. T. Taylor and David Hall — which were still assessed in Littleton in 1889. Edmund Lawrence’s estate was accepted April 6, 1807, widow Rachel Cobleigh’s property, May 27, 1818, and George Jeffon’s estate, April 2, 1821. In 1827 the town voted to choose a committee

to converse with all those who still paid their taxes in Littleton, though within the bounds of Boxborough, to see if they would not in future attach themselves to their own town; and April 24 of that year five (the largest number at any one time) signified their desire to become inhabitants of Boxborough, and were transferred to said town: viz., John Hoar, John Blanchard, Simon Blanchard, Mrs. Abigail Blanchard and Moses Whitcomb. Two more, Carshena Wood and Mrs. Lucy Wood, came May 23, 1831, and one more, Isaac Patch, April 2, 1838. Measures were taken in 1890 to see if the taxes of the remaining two farms might not be required to revert to the town to which the estates belonged. The petition to the Legislature failed, however, and Littleton having filed a counter-petition, praying for a new boundary between the said towns, their petition was granted, and a bill, according with it, passed. The new line between the two towns leaves the greater part of the farms, with their buildings, in Littleton, so that the question of transfer is no longer possible and the difficulty is settled once for all.

The boundaries on the Harvard and Stow sides are probably somewhat changed: that toward Acton seems to be the same and the south-east corner, on Flagg's Hill, appears to be unaltered. The boundary on the Littleton side, as we have said, although the source of much dispute and threatened prosecution, was finally fixed by act of the Legislature in 1890. No definite descriptions of the corner bounds and boundary lines are recorded whereby we can mark the exact changes; the bounds themselves — heaps of stones, stakes, trees — are objects which the vicissitudes of a hundred years might well render uncertain, and now they cannot be determined with any degree of accuracy.

It is interesting to follow the working of the newly organized district and to note that which seemed most to occupy their hands and hearts. So far as we can judge from the records left us, after having thrown in their lot together each one worked for the common good. Destined never to become a large town, its citizens gave to it, and found in it,





THE UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
NOW THE TOWN HALL )

THE OLD PARSONAGE.  
NOW MR. JEROME PRIEST'S.



whatever of active, energetic enterprise it possessed. The warrants for the early town-meetings are full of articles for action, touching the church, the school and the highway, — three of the most important factors in the common town or state life, for without religion at the outset, the foundation must have been unstable; without education the future processes of self-government, personal and general development in intelligence and strength, must have halted; and without communication with the outside world, common interchange of ideas and methods, and also transportation, would have been at a standstill. The citizens of the district seem to have been much interested in these things at the very first. The meeting-house was the place not only for holding the religious gatherings of the people, but also for all town-meetings until 1835, and in April of that year they assembled at Bigelow's Hall, situated directly opposite. Early this year they "voted to build Town Hall under the contemplated New meeting-house on the Common, and voted to raise \$250 to build the same," and then a reaction came and they "voted to reconsider" their vote. In March of the same year they voted to build a town-house on the old Common and voted to raise \$400 for the same, and again the reaction came and they reconsidered the vote; but later in the season a town hall was built near the southern end of the Common and opened for use in October, 1835. This remained until 1874. Early in 1870 they voted to "examine Town Hall," and also chose a committee to see if the Universalist meeting-house "on the hill" could be procured for a town hall. This was found by the committee to be impracticable at that time, and the town voted to enlarge and thoroughly repair the old hall. But in November of that year a committee was again chosen to confer with regard to obtaining the old church for town use, and in December, 1870, the town "voted to accept the Report of Committee," and "voted to accept the meeting-house as a gift from a majority of the pew owners." They immediately went to work to make the needed alterations and repairs and to furnish in a neat and comfortable manner for the transaction of town business. When the old

Puritan Church of one hundred years ago was divided in 1829, the Universalist Society, as it was thereafter called, retained possession of the old church. This society after a time discontinued their meetings, the house was closed, and in 1870, as before stated, was presented to the town for a town-house. The old hall was sold at auction in 1874 to H. E. Felch, and was subsequently torn down.

In the early part of Boxborough's history, there seem to have been a great many extra meetings for town, or district purposes rather,—the words town and district being used interchangeably all through the records,—questions with regard to the church and church property, schools, roads, disposition of poor, boundaries, town buildings, town prosecutions and the like. They discussed the questions and voted pro and con, and considered and reconsidered these local items as only men interested in the true welfare of the town would have done. But they seem at times to have arisen to that pitch of earnestness and enthusiasm where their "No" was no, and their "Yes," yes, irrevocably.

A perusal of old writings brings some minor items to light, like the following, which may interest the rising generation if no other:—In 1789, Wm. McKay, convicted of swearing one (or more) "profain oaths," paid a fine of six shillings, and such fines were not infrequent. They were careful to guard the morals of the young. An incident is told of an old resident which illustrates this. He had been trying to impress upon his son the importance of temperance in speech, and at the close of the lesson,—“I swear if *you* swear, I'll whip you,” said the old man emphatically. Unique auctioneer's licenses are recorded:—“We the Subscribers, Selectmen of the Town of Boxborough, at a meeting holden for the purpose, have licensed and do hereby Licence Major Eph<sup>m</sup> Taylor of s<sup>d</sup> Boxborough to sell at public Vendue or Outery any Goods or Chattles whatsoever, pursuant to a law of the Commonwealth, passed June the 16, 1795.” Boys were often bound out to service by vote of the town, for example, in 1807 they “voted to bind David Green to Christopher Page to learn the carpenter's trade upon the

same terms respecting clothing and schooling as though he staid with his old master."

In 1837 the town "voted to allow a bounty of twenty cents each on Crows young and old taken in the limits of Boxborough between April and November" and granted one hundred dollars for the purpose. It was voted in 1838 "to have the bell rung at nine o'clock in the evenings each day in the year (Sundays excepted) five minutes at a time." Doubtless in our forefathers' time this was a reminder to have "all the children in." Nowadays such a note pealing out over these hills and valleys would perhaps be more likely to find the people of all ages just gathering together.

The old town folk evinced a good deal of interest in the highways, and roads were laid out here and there and accepted from time to time: but the vague descriptions, vivid as they may have seemed then, leave us in obscurity as to their exact trend. The next year after the incorporation of the district, in 1784, several highways were laid out: in 1785 the town voted fifty pounds to repair highways, and the following year an appropriation was also made. And so on down through her history, such items as the laying out of roads, acceptance or rejection of them as the case might demand, appropriations, setting up guide posts or building walls, are frequent. In the early days each poll worked out his highway tax: in 1791 it was voted, "that Every Ratable Pole shall work on the County Road one Day this year." Record is made showing that some of the roads were mere bridle-paths at first: in 1790 the town "voted to accept the Bridle road," and in 1819 "Gave an order to Prince J. Chester, it being in full for a road or Bridle way through his land." Some were private or half-private ways, as we find such entries as these: 1814. "Voted to shut up the road through D<sup>n</sup> Jacob Fairbanks' land for one year if D<sup>n</sup> Jacob Fairbanks will cause a road to be opened that will commodore the town as well." In 1815 "Committee report they are dissatisfied with a road fenced out as it cuts them off from water, but are willing that Mr. Sargent should have a road with two gates, which they will agree to support one." In 1814 a vote was passed "to

keep the Turn-pike road in repair as far as it lies in Boxborough for one year, provided the Corporation will admit the inhabitants of said Boxborough passing the gates toll free." This same "Boston Road" or "the old turnpike" as it is now called, was laid out through the southerly part of the town from Harvard to Acton, and is the main thoroughfare. We find what answers to the same road on Silas Holman's map of 1794. It was accepted in 1806 as the "Union Turnpike" by the Court of General Sessions of the Peace, at its September term. In 1830 a petition was sent in to the county commissioners, and April 7 of that year the Union Turnpike, so far as it lies in the county of Middlesex, was declared a public highway, the town granting \$300 for repairs. The road over the hill, east of Guggin's Brook, was discontinued in 1868.

The Fitchburg Railroad, which was opened in 1845, skirts along the level, northeastern border of the town for quite a distance. Whether or no this new invention was hailed by the farmers with delight, or whether they considered it an intrusion upon their sacred solitudes, and a trespass on their farming rights, history tells us not. At any rate, no mention is made of a desire for a station until a special town-meeting in June, 1849, when they "voted to choose a committee to petition the President and Directors of the Fitchburg Railroad for a depot or stopping-place in the town of Boxborough, near the house of Mr. John Hoar." The petition was not granted. During the years of which we have been speaking, West Acton had been growing up and had become a thriving village. Nov. 30, 1868, record is made of the adoption of the following resolution: "Resolved that the town of Boxborough unite with that part of Acton called West Acton in the formation of a new town." The votes upon the resolution stood 49 to 11 in favor of the new town and a committee was chosen and instructed to use every effort in the annexation of Boxborough and West Acton, but the scheme planned to benefit both town and village for some reason failed. In 1873 another petition was sent to the Fitchburg Railroad Company for a station, but this also failed. The station for Boxborough is one with that of West Acton,

“West Acton and Boxborough” being the name given to it. West Acton is also the post-office, and the nearest business point for Boxborough, although for a small part of the town West Littleton is more convenient.

The record of Presidential votes shows that, for many years, the town was pretty evenly divided as to its political sympathies, with a slight leaning to the Democratic side. In more recent years the lines dividing politics and religion have grown less marked, until they have somewhat nearly coincided. The records speak of Boxborough as both town and district throughout the early years, and we have done the same in order better to represent them; but strictly speaking Boxborough was a district until May 1, 1836, when it became a town, not by any special act of the Legislature, but under a clause of the Revised Statutes of that year. But in the November following it still voted with Stow for representative to the General Court, so that, if this date be the correct one it did not at once enter into its full privilege as a town. In the more recent years of the Representative union, when sending two representatives it was customary to send one from Stow and one from Boxborough. Record of the votes was always made at Stow only.

## CHAPTER III.

MILITARY HISTORY — LUTHER BLANCHARD — 1812 — WAR  
OF THE REBELLION — SOLDIERS' NAMES — SCHOOLS —  
DIVISION OF TOWN — SCHOOL-BUILDINGS — REPORTS.

BOXBOROUGH'S military history must necessarily be somewhat brief, as, not having been incorporated until 1783, she has no Colonial or Revolutionary record of her own. But, like some other towns not having a record of their *own* because not incorporated at the time, and therefore swelling the record of some neighboring town or towns, so Boxborough has a *real* though not a separate record of the Revolution with Acton and the neighboring towns. In this connection we would pay a passing tribute to the memory of Luther Blanchard, who, together with his brother Calvin, joined the Acton Company, and was the first man to shed his blood at the fight at Concord Bridge. The old homestead and family estates were within the limits of Littleton (that part which is now Boxborough), and the descendants still own and occupy them. Luther is said to have been "a favorite young man, tall, straight, handsome and athletic." At the time of the Concord fight he was learning the mason's trade of Abner Hosmer, who resided on the Herman A. Gould place in Acton. I quote from the centennial speech of a grandson of Calvin Blanchard,— the late Joseph K. Blanchard of this town:

"The neighboring town of Acton had formed a company of minute-men to be ready at a minute's notice to meet the British soldiers: Calvin and Luther Blanchard of Boxborough were members of this company. These brothers inherited the spirit of patriotism from their father, who was killed at the Heights of Quebec. This company of men had pledged themselves to



stand by each other in resisting the British foe. On the morning of the Nineteenth of April, 1775, word came to Acton that the British soldiers were en route for Concord. This company of minute-men were quickly assembled on the Acton Common, with Calvin Blanchard for orderly-sergeant and Luther Blanchard as fifer. As there was a little delay here, and the soldiers were anxious to meet the enemy, Luther Blanchard struck up 'The White Cockade,' and then Capt. Davis started off, saying to his men that if any of them were afraid to follow him they might go home. When they reached the old north bridge at Concord, the British were already on the point of coming over to this side to destroy stores of the Colonists on this side the river. The officer in command asked for volunteers to meet the foe. Capt. Davis, knowing his men, said, 'I have not a man who is afraid to go.' As they advance to meet the British, they receive their fire and Luther Blanchard is the first man wounded. The Captain then asked if they fired balls. 'Yes,' was the reply, 'for Luther Blanchard is wounded.'" He went into the house of Mrs. Barrett, close by, to have the wound dressed. "A little more and you'd have been killed," said Mrs. Barrett, mournfully. "Yes, and a little more and it would not have touched me," replied Blanchard, brightly, and hastened to join his comrades. The wound appeared slight, but he died three days later in consequence of it. His body was brought to Littleton and laid in the old cemetery there. Today the spot is unmarked and unknown.

In 1787, the town voted to "Provide Stock of Powder and Ledgs, also flint," which were kept in a magazine, provided for the purpose, under the stairs in the meeting-house: and record is also made of muster-days and the ordinary military organizations, but nothing more of importance until August 18, 1794, when they called a special town-meeting, "to see what the town will do about raising the eight men, in compliance with the request of Congress, and give any instructions to Capt. Whitcomb about the same." They voted "to give some incoragegment to the men that shall list as soldiers, and voted that each man that lists as a soldier agreeable to Resolves of Congress Shall have

the publick pay as wages made up by the Town: to each man the sum of Two pounds, Eight shillings pr. month for the time they serve in the army: and that they shall have six shillings in part of their pay paid them when they do List and ingage if they do not march out of Town, and the sum of eighteen shillings more when they march in order to join the army." Three years later, in October, 1797, at another special meeting they "Voted to give the Soldiers one Dollar each to engage, to give the men ten dollars each at marching, and to make their wages equal to laboring men the time they are in the service, including the ten dollars above mentioned and Government pay." In 1800 they voted "that Each soldier that goes to the review at Concord and does his duty shall have one dollar for the two days service and 1-2 lb. of powder for each soldier." The town was again called on for men in 1812 and 1814, and bounties were offered; viz.: In 1812, "Voted to make up the Soldiers \$10 per month when they are called into actual service, and two dollars a day when called out of Town, and to receive it before they march into actual Service or when dismissed." In 1814, "Voted to make up the soldiers \$18 per month with the national pay and five dollars bounty if they volunteer their services." The town abated the taxes of her soldiers while in the service. In 1832, it is recorded that the town "voted to authorize the Treasurer to pay the amount of their Poll Taxes to each of the training Soldiers who kept themselves uniformed and equipped and performed all Military duty required of them." With the exception of muster-days and militia-rolls, nothing further is recorded until the late War of the Rebellion.

There were no town-meetings held until July 23, 1862, when they "voted to pay bounty to five persons that will volunteer to go to war, voted \$100 to each of the five, and immediately voted \$5 each to those who will enlist within three days and be accepted." August 23, "Voted town pay bounty of \$100 to those who will volunteer to fill town's quota of nine months men, to six or seven, whichever it may be." In October of the same year the town voted \$150 to each drafted man, and also to each volunteer, "enough to fill our

call," to be paid after they were mustered into service. A month later the same bounty was extended to the substitutes of drafted men.

The highest bounty offered was September 19, 1864, when the town "Voted to pay \$125 in Gold to each recruit to fill the town's quota." The advance of gold was from 85 to 165 during that month, so that, even at an average, the bounty was a large one. The young men of Boxborough responded willingly to their country's call, and "five persons came forward and enlisted" at one time. Of the fifty-one men — seven more than required — furnished by the town, none were commissioned officers. We quote the following from Schouler's "Massachusetts in the Civil War": "The whole amount of the money appropriated and expended by the town for war purposes, exclusive of State aid, was \$7046.87. The amount of money raised and expended by the town during the war for State aid to soldiers' families, and which was repaid by the Commonwealth, was \$1347.53. About \$200 was raised by the ladies of the town for the Christian Commission."

We give below names of the soldiers who went from Boxborough to take part in the War of the Rebellion, so far as we are able to give them:

Messrs. Samuel Burroughs, E. L. Battles, James Bryant, E. D. Battles, Monroe Clement, George Draper, Wm. Edwards, Luther H. Ewings, Lucius Holden, Charles Jenkins, A. A. Richardson, S. E. Smiley, Paul Hayward, George Sargent, Waldo Littlefield, John Fletcher, Peter W. H. Perry, F. H. Stevens, Tim. L. Wood, Abraham Rodgers, A. W. Wetherbee, James H. Whitcomb, John Griffin, Joseph Moren, Wm. F. Stevens, A. G. Whitcomb, Alonzo M. Woodward.

Of these, George Sargent and Luther H. Ewings were wounded; Alonzo M. Woodward died Oct. 6, 1862, at Suffolk, Va., of fever; John Fletcher was killed at the battle of Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864; and James H. Whitcomb died at Cotton Wood Springs, Neb., of typhoid fever, Aug. 31, 1865.

We come now to the history of our public schools. Boxborough has never enjoyed the advantage of either an academy or high school within her own boundaries, although her sons and daughters have reaped the benefits of the higher institutions of learning of other towns or cities near or far. The town fathers evidently had the cause of education at heart, for in the town warrant, Sept. 22, 1783 — the same year of her incorporation — we find this article: "To see what the town will do about Providing School this Present Year and act anything they Shall Think Proper when met:" and when legally met they "voted to have four months' schooling this year and voted that the Selectmen provide and proportion the same." The "proportion" seems to refer not to different sections of the town, but to the boys and girls who appear to have been educated separately for some time, as in 1787 money was appropriated for "four months of man's school, and four months of Woman's School."

At the 30th of August meeting, 1784, it was decided not only to have "four months of Woman's School," but also "to have a school-master six months," the town thus charging themselves with deciding as to whether a gentleman or lady should be the instructor of their youth. But in 1794 they transferred the grave responsibility to the shoulders of a committee, who should "provide & hire a school-master or masters and mistress or mistresses as shall be most convenient for the town's good." Also, this year, the boys and girls shared equally in the ten months' schooling, as appears from the vote for "five months of man's school and five months of women's school." From 1783 to 1794 the selectmen seem to have had charge of the schools. In that year a special committee was appointed, but it was not until a number of years later, in 1820, that the School Committee's office became an established fact. In the mean time the schools were often in charge of the selectmen, as at the first.

Work in the school in the days of "auld lang syne," in Boxborough, was evidently not as popular as in many schools today, for, in 1794, action was taken to the effect that "no

work should be done in or at the woman's school, as there usually hath bin: but the time to be spent in instructing the children to Read and wright." No special record is made of teachers' wages in those early days. In 1783 there was "voted and granted the Sum of 24 lbs. to pay town debts and schooling;" and in 1787 the sum of fifteen pounds was granted for "schooling" alone. A few entries such as these would seem to indicate such wages as would be no great temptation to the teacher of the present day.

No doubt the pay of the Boxborough teachers compared favorably with that of surrounding towns, and in some of these, one hundred years ago, the school-master received \$2 per week, where now he requires \$10 or \$20 for the same service. We do not know if there was even a school-house in the new district at the time of its incorporation, in 1783, although rumor says there was such a building many years ago situated upon "Liberty Square," the common in front of Mr. Henry T. Taylor's present residence. This same Liberty Square is said to have been noted as a gathering place for amusement on the Fourth of July and election days. Some seventy years ago the people celebrated the national independence by raising a liberty pole 100 feet high and providing a dinner free for all. The voice of the cannon spoke of freedom and independence to all around, and various amusements rendered the day pleasurable. But to return, it is suggested that the children may have all come together to one school until 1786, when it was voted "to choose a committee to divide the town into quarters, that each may build them a school-house if they please" But the committee for some reason failed in the performance of this duty, for in the latter part of 1790 a new committee was invested with power for the work and instructed to "accomplish the business," which was done and the report made in March, 1791. The division of the town into quarters, as then made, with slight variations, has always remained. The number of districts has continued the same, although efforts were made in 1816, and again in 1842, to reduce it to three. Convenience of families and equalization of district taxes have caused some

slight changes in the boundaries. Unsuccessful efforts have also been made, from time to time, as they have grown smaller, to reduce the number of schools to one or two.

No great difference is observable in the location of school-buildings. The greatest change seems to be in the Northeast or No. 3 District, whose building is now more centrally situated at the intersection of several roads. The Southeast or No. 4 house has also undergone a slight change of location. A vote was passed in 1790 to build a school-house or houses, and again in 1791 to build three houses, and the sum of forty-five pounds was granted for the purpose. It is probable that the Southwest District, No. 1, had already reared their educational structure, as only three houses are spoken of at this juncture, for which the sum of forty-five pounds was to be equally divided, and as special provision was made that the First District should receive their part of the money. Reference is continually made to items of business in connection with the building of these school-houses until toward the close of the century, and it is probable that they were not all fully completed before that time.

In 1807 an appropriation was made by the town to build a school-house in the Northwest quarter, No. 2, in room of one burnt, and the next year the district itself voted a sum of money for the same purpose. There is no further record until 1843, when a house was built in No. 3 District. Separate schools for boys and girls are last mentioned in 1797. Beyond a few items, such as the condition of the schools, money appropriated each year, committees chosen, questions concerning redistricting the town, or settlement of bounds requiring the occasional transfer of an estate, there is nothing more of interest until 1840. In 1813, '14, '16, '25, '29, '42, '66, and '77 various appropriations are made for singing-schools.

A hundred years ago \$60 was the amount paid for building a school-house; now, twenty-five times that sum would, perhaps, be deemed no more than sufficient. The methods of teaching have greatly changed, also, since those early days. The essential elements have always been the *three R's* — Reading,

‘Riting and ‘Rithmetic,” — but the methods of instruction in these branches have widely changed. We quote from the Centennial speech of Mr. George F. Conant, a former superintendent of our public schools, upon this subject: “Reading then meant a drawling drill in the alphabet and its combinations, a-b, ab; c-b, cb; o-b, ob, etc: our children are now inducted at once into the reading of words, and led on, by easy gradations, through selections from the best masters of English prose and verse. Writing then involved a long preliminary struggle with pot-hooks and trammels: now the child is taught to read and write script from the outset. Arithmetic was then a sealed science beyond the Rule of Three — even the master was not required to have explored farther: now a child of ten or twelve years is expected to have reached that ultimatum. Mental arithmetic was a thing unknown. Grammar was then a tedious task, encumbered with the six Latin cases, and numberless unintelligible rules. Our boys and girls, with their ‘Language Lessons,’ half work, half play, little know what their fore-fathers endured. Perhaps none of our text-books have changed more than the geographies. This is strikingly apparent in a comparison of maps of the different dates. Central Asia was terra incognita. Africa consisted of a narrow strip along the shores, surrounding the great unknown: as for Australia and the isles of the sea, they were not: our own country west of the Ohio was an impenetrable forest and howling wilderness.” Modes of discipline have also changed, and the famous “birchen rod” is a thing of the past.

The first report of schools is recorded in 1840. Number of scholars, 92 in summer, 143 in winter. Length of schools: in summer, 11 months; in winter, 10 3-4 months. “Number of teachers: in summer, 4 females; in winter, 4 males.” Average wages per month, including board: females, \$9.50; males, \$24. The school year was divided into two terms at this time, but later, as the terms were lengthened, it became the custom to have three, which is the present arrangement. The schools have now grown considerably smaller. The district system, which had prevailed so long, was abolished February 28, 1867.

by vote of the town. The Superintending School Committee first received pay for their services in 1842. Their recorded reports at this time are full of interest. We give a sentence from the report of 1842, earnest and to the point: "Young men can parse or analyze sentences with a great deal of skill when they leave school, but it is very rare that you can find one that has confidence enough in his own abilities to compose a piece of reasoning and recite it before an audience." One report, in 1846, so brief we beg leave to give it entire, is as follows: "Your committee would report that in their opinion the schools, with one or two exceptions, have been wisely and judiciously managed the past year." The annual report was first printed in 1853. In 1843 two school libraries were established, and the following year a sum of money was appropriated to carry on the good work. In 1842 the work of erecting school-buildings was again entered upon by the Northeast District, which event called forth the following from the School Committee: "Your committee hail with joy the erection of a new school-house in town, after the lapse of about half a century, a period when a school-house might have some good claims to exemption from further service." Some time later the other districts followed suit, and from that time forward the houses have been rebuilt — Nos. 1 and 2 sometime from 1852 to 1857, No. 4 in 1868, and No. 3 in 1870 — or repaired as was thought necessary, until at the present time there is a comfortable school-building in each of the four quarters of the town. Only five of Boxborough's young men have received a college education. Two sons of Rev. Joseph Willard, the first pastor, graduated at Harvard in 1793 and 1809, Mr. J. Quincy Hayward at Amherst, in 1882, and Mr. Charles H. Conant, Dartmouth, 1871, bar in 1873. Mr. Conant has been a lawyer in Lowell for quite a number of years. Mr. D. Boutwell Veasie completed a college course at Worcester, Ohio, and afterwards studied law.



## CHAPTER IV.

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ECCLESIASTICAL — CHURCH ORGANIZED — FIRST PASTOR —  
INSTALLATION — THE SERMON — MR. WILLARD — CON-  
TROVERSY — REV. AARON PICKET.

As stated in our opening paragraph, the old Harvard meeting-house was purchased in 1775. The old volume, which contains all the account that is left to us of these early days, bears on the fly-leaf this inscription: "Record Book. The Gift of Bennet Wood to the Society Building a Meeting-House in North-westerly part of Stow. Littleton, August 31, 1776." Religion was the primary cause of the union of the people on the outskirts of these three towns. They banded themselves together for convenience in public worship, and thus the "New Society" was formed, which afterwards became first the district and then the town. The religious phase of her history is the essential element of *all* her history: for religion was the fundamental principle — the foundation — on which the town was built. For almost half a century the town and the parish were identical, and her history in this connection is not only valuable to us who now study it, but it is full of interest also. Our Puritan ancestors recognized then, as we do now, in what the true public good consisted, and they sought to place on their hill, as their initial act, that in which all their thoughts and deeds should centre, — the church of the living God. The town meeting and the parish meeting were one for a long time, and for a still longer period, more than half a century even, after the separation of town and parish business, the town-meetings were held in the

meeting-house. Questions concerning the church and church affairs were made the annual business of the town.

In the warrant for the second meeting, held in April, 1783, was this article : "To see if the Town will grant money to hire Preaching, or act anything Relating the same they shall think Proper or choose a committee to do so;" and they voted to hire preaching, agreed upon the sum of forty pounds for that purpose, and chose a committee of three to hire it : viz., Bennet Wood, Oliver Taylor and Moses Whitecomb. September 22, 1783, we read this unique article in town warrant : "To see if the Town will Take any measures for to Regulate Singing on the Lord's Day or apoint Quiristers for the same." And they "voted to choose four Quiristers as followeth." Even seven years before, in 1776, the good people were not unmindful of this phase of public worship, for they "voted and chose Abel Fletcher, Abel Whitecomb and Jonathan Patch to tune the Psalms." In 1796 the town "voted that Dr. Belknap's Books should be used in the Congregation of Boxborough in the Room of Dr. Watt's Books." It seems the town voted also where a person should sit in church, for, the same year, it "voted and seated Ens. Samuel Wetherbee in the fore-seat below, and Samuel Draper in the fore-seat of the side gallery;" in 1792, "Voted that the Dr. sit in the fore-seat of the front;" apparently as a mark of respect to those gentlemen. Deacons' seats were also provided. In 1798 the same authority "Voted that the Methodist preacher may preach in the meeting-house in said Boxborough on the week-days, during the town's pleasure, but not to molest or interrupt the Rev. Mr. Joseph Willard when he shall appoint any lecture or time to preach in said meeting-house at his pleasure." The town-meeting voted the taxes for the payment of the minister, for, a month later, that body "voted not to have the persons that have dogs taxed for their dogs polls, and voted to tax all persons to the minister's Rate agreeable to the Constitution." Sometimes a person wished to attend church out of town, and then he was released from his minister's rate in town upon bringing certificate from the clerk of the neighboring town,

stating that he worshipped with some other church, and paid his dues there. The town corporate evidenced in all her proceedings her desire to do everything according to righteousness and justice, and she was no less careful to bring her citizens up to the same standard.

It appears that the church was in an unfinished state at the time of the incorporation of the district, for, Oct. 27, 1783, it was voted "to sell the Pue ground in the meeting-house below, and take the money to finish the house." It took several town-meetings to settle the business, but it was finally decided that "the persons that purchase the Pue ground build the pews on their own cost, and take them for their Seates for themselves and families in the Meeting-house until they Sell or Dispose of the same." The ground-plan was for twenty-two pews, and when they were sold it was "voted that the first twenty-two highest payers have the first offer of the Pews as is Dignified and Prized according to their pay, and voted that the highest pew be offered unto the Highest Payer, giving him or them the choice of that or any other Pew they or he Likes Better at the Same Price, and if the first twenty-two highest Refuse to take the Pews, then they are to be offered to the next twenty-two highest payers, and so on in proportion till all have had the offer if Need be." Again, in 1786 and 1795, votes were passed "to seat meeting-house according to age and pay." These items would seem to show that deference to property is not confined to our own time, but was also a characteristic of bygone days.

The church was organized the 29th of April, 1784, and it was voted to have the house finished the following November. The 18th of that month the town "voted to concur with the church of Boxborough in giving Mr. Joseph Willard a call to settle with them as a Gospel Minister in <sup>s</sup>d town." They also discussed the subject of salary as to "what they should give the Rev. Mr. Willard for encouragement:" voted "to think about it" and, finally, after various meetings to settle the business, Dec. 27, they voted "not to give Rev. Mr. Willard half-pay so long as he indureth his natural life, but to pay the Rev.

Mr. Joseph Willard £75 of money annually, in silver money, at six shillings, eight pence per ounce, and find twenty cords of wood for his fire annually, so long as the Rev. Mr. Willard shall supply the Pulpit in said town of Boxborough and no longer." The furnishing of the wood was let out to the lowest bidder annually. Another quaintly-worded article in warrant this year read as follows: "To see if the Town will Sell the two hind Seats Below on the men's and women's Side and Let them be cut up for Pews, and get the outside of the meeting-house Painted with the money."

They voted to install Mr. Willard, Nov. 2, 1785. Mr. Willard was born in Grafton, Mass., and graduated at Harvard College in 1765. He was called to Bedford,\* April 19, 1769, where he served as pastor for nearly fourteen years. December 4, 1782, his connection with the society was dissolved at his own request, by the unanimous advice of a council, on account of the broken state of the society. He then received his call and was installed over the District of Boxborough. The following eight churches were invited to join in the installation services: Grafton, Harvard, first and second churches Reading, Stow, Northboro', Littleton, and Acton. Rev. Jonathan Newell, of Stow, offered the opening prayer: Rev. Caleb Prentice, of the first church in Reading, preached the sermon from 2 Cor., 1st chapter and 24th verse, — "Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy." We quote from this sermon — which was printed at Worcester, in 1786, and a copy of which is in possession of Miss M. B. Priest of this town — the following extracts: —

"The great business of Gospel Ministers, is, to be helpers of the joy of their fellow-men, to promote their well-being and felicity, both in the present and future world. . . . Every man has a natural, unalienable right, to think, judge, and believe for himself, in matters of religion. And every Christian is bound to maintain this right for himself, and to support others in the enjoyment of it. If one Christian usurps dominion over another's faith, he assumes a power that does not belong

\* For "Bedford" read "Mendon."

to him, and may with propriety be addressed after this manner — *Who made thee to be a ruler and judge over others in this matter? Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth,* to whom alone he is accountable. . . . Ministers must *preach the Word*, more especially the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which reveals the mind and will of the Lord, and points out to men the path of duty and way to happiness. . . . We must instruct our hearers in that useful branch of science, the true knowledge of themselves — the end of their existence — their mortal and immortal nature — and their relation to a future, eternal world. . . . The terrors of the law must be thundered forth, to engage sinners to repentance and to bring them to Christ. . . . An essential part of Ministerial duty consists, in preaching Christ as a Saviour to men. We must proclaim to men the glad tidings of salvation by the Son of God, the Mediator of the new covenant, and make known the mercy and grace of God to sinners, through Jesus Christ, teaching them the way to obtain forgiveness of sin and eternal life, through the Son of God.”

Rev. Eben Grosvenor offered prayer: Rev. Eliab Stone, of the second church in Reading, gave the charge to the pastor: Rev. Peter Whitney, of Northborough, gave the charge to the people, and Rev. Moses Adams, of Acton, offered the closing prayer. The whole number of persons belonging to the church at its organization, and admitted afterward during Mr. Willard's pastorate, was 144: number of persons baptized, 265: number of marriages, 109; number of deaths, 188. After a pastorate of nearly forty years, by request of the people, in December, 1823, Mr. Willard resigned his position as pastor of the church, when just at the close of his eighty-second year. He resided at the parsonage, the house now owned and occupied by Mr. Jerome Priest, until his death, in September, 1828.

We know but little of him who closed his earthly career here more than sixty years ago. We are informed that he fitted a great many young men for college, that he was himself a graduate of Harvard, and we judge that he was a man of

education and culture, — a faithful worker, leading and directing the newly-organized church, revered, loved and trusted by them for upwards of half a century, and that his labors, though expended among these country hills, were not in vain.

In 1815 the question of building a new meeting-house or of repairing the old began to agitate the people. During the next three years many meetings were held, at which various measures were suggested, voted upon, and then reconsidered. At length, in May, 1816, a vote was passed "to leave it to a committee to determine whether the town shall repair old meeting-house or build a new one, and if in the opinion of said committee the Town shall build a new Meeting-house, they shall appoint the place where to set it." And they chose Augustus Tower, Esq. of Stow, John Robins, Esq. of Acton, and Jonathan Sawyer, a committee for that purpose. The hill on which the old church stood was quite a little distance west of the centre, and so the people of the east part of the town wished not only to build a new house, but to have it placed nearer the actual centre. According to the records, the controversy grew stronger, for the said committee having performed their duty and brought in the report "that in their opinion it would not be for the interest of the town to repair the old, but to build new, and on spot southerly of Mr. Phinehas Wetherbee's dwelling-house" — a site quite near the actual centre — it was voted "not to accept the report" and "not to reconsider the last vote to repair." At a November meeting a petition was presented, signed by twenty-three residents of the east part of the town, asking, "First, for a new meeting-house; second, that it be placed on or near site appointed by the committee of reference; and if not, third, to see if the town will vote that the subscribers be discharged from Buxborough that they may go to the original Towns from which they were taken." The town was not ready as a whole to yield the ground on the question of a new meeting-house, nor did they wish to lose any of their citizens, so they voted "to pass over the article." Efforts were made from time to time to bring about a better state of feeling between the parties, but the new

house was not built until years after (in 1836), neither were there repairs made to any extent.

After Mr. Willard's resignation, when the Rev. Aaron Picket came to be their next minister, the manner of procedure was changed. The amendment to the Constitution disconnecting Church and State was not passed until November, 1833, but the town-meeting no longer granted the minister's salary, or auctioned off his twenty cords of wood to the lowest bidder. Mr. Picket came in 1826 upon a vote of the town "to hire him for one year after the money that is already raised is expended to preach for them in Boxborough, provided he will stay and they can get money enough to pay him." A division similar to that which occurred in so many churches at about that time was imminent now. In 1828 they "voted to let each denomination have the meeting-house their proportionable part of the time according to the valuation," and they chose a committee, in which each denomination was represented, "to lay out the money." But from later records it seems probable that the money was raised not by assessment, but by subscription.

## CHAPTER V.

SEPARATION — NEW SOCIETY — REV. JAMES R. CUSHING —  
 NEW CHURCH — PASTORS — THE FIRST PARISH — METH-  
 ODIST CHURCH — STATISTICS — CENTENNIAL — TOWN  
 OFFICERS.

THE separation came at last in 1829, when the church desired to call the Rev. James R. Cushing of the Theological Seminary, Bangor, Me., to the pastorate, to which action the parish raised opposition. The ground of difference was in religious belief. And so, May 20, the church met and voted "That having failed to secure the concurrence of the 1st Parish in inviting Mr. Cushing to become our Religious Teacher we proceed to take the steps prescribed by law to form a New Society whose members will concur with us in taking the necessary measures to secure to this church the pastoral labors of Mr. Cushing." Immediately the society, called the "Evangelical Congregational Society in the District of Boxborough," was legally formed, and having "concurred" with the church, a call was at once extended to Mr. Cushing; and the "solemnities" of ordination were performed under an ancient elm near the old meeting-house, Aug. 12, 1829. They built their church on its present site, at the junction of the highways, where the Stow road crosses the old turn-pike, a little south-east of the centre, near which a comfortable parsonage now stands, a point convenient of access from all parts of the town. It was "dedicated to the worship of God" Feb. 6, 1833. A sketch of those who have been connected with the church as pastors may not be uninteresting. Mr. Cushing was dismissed at his own request,



to become agent for the American Bible and Tract Society, June 12, 1833. He was one of the Superintending School Committee for three years.

Jan. 13, 1834, the church and society voted unanimously to give Rev. Joseph Warren Cross a call to the pastorate. Mr. Cross accepted the call and was ordained the first day of the following October. This connection of pastor and people was dissolved Nov. 13, 1839, by his own request. He served on the School Board in 1838. He is still living—at the advanced age of eighty—in West Boylston, Mass. He retired from the ministry a number of years ago. During his stay in Boxborough he taught a private school in a building erected for the purpose, nearly opposite the new church, and which was also used as a vestry. The building is now a part of Mr. Hayden's barn.

Rev. James D. Farnsworth accepted the pastoral care of the church Nov. 28, 1841, and was installed Jan. 6, 1842. This connection was severed in 1847. He was a member of the Superintending School Committee in 1842 and 1844, served as one of the assessors for two consecutive years and was active in all that pertained to the well-being of the town.

A part of the time from 1847 to 1851 the church was supplied by Rev. Mr. Crossman, a young Wesleyan divine, who, in connection with his pulpit duties, performed those of teacher in No. 4 District for two consecutive winters. Rev. Mr. Gannett preached in 1851-52, and Rev. Leonard Luce became the acting pastor from 1853 to 1858. During his ministrations the greatest revival the church has ever known was enjoyed. He died in Westford a number of years ago at the ripe age of eighty-five years.

Rev. James H. Fitts, a young man and a native of New Hampshire, commenced his labors as acting pastor of the church Sept. 5, 1858, and continued his connection with it for nearly four years; then, having received a call to the church in West Boylston, Mass., he preached his farewell sermon July 27, 1862, and accepted the call to that place.

Rev. George N. Marden was ordained to the pastoral office Oct. 2, 1862, and dissolved his relationship with the church in April, 1865. He was a fine scholar, as his sermons testified. He is now connected with a college at Colorado Springs, Col.

The following November Rev. Amos Holbrook, of Milford, Mass., commenced his labors as acting pastor and closed them Sept. 1, 1868. He had neither seminary education nor theological training, but he was a well-educated man, having held the position of principal of a school in Milford previous to his pastorate in Boxborough. It was during his stay, and owing partly to his influence, that the present parsonage was built.

Feb. 11, 1869, Rev. Daniel McClenning came, but removed to Hanover, N. H., Apr. 30, 1873. Socially he was a perfect gentleman and very agreeable in manner, but his style of preaching was censorious and severe. He was of Scotch ancestry and his birth-place was in Littleton. He died five or six years ago.

Rev. John Wood supplied the pulpit from Oct. 26, 1873, until Feb. 28, 1875. He was possessed of good preaching ability and quite a number of persons were brought into the church in connection with his labors. He was a resident of Wellesley, Mass., at this time, and came to his charge each week. He is more than eighty years of age and is living in Fitchburg, Mass., at the present time.

After the close of Mr. Wood's pastorate the church was supplied by Revs. Wood, Robie, Wells and others until the first of April, 1876, when Rev. Nathan Thompson began his labors in Boxborough, continuing them until August, 1881. During his pastorate, in 1880, the church was thoroughly repaired, a vestry placed beneath audience-room, and the whole fitted up neatly and conveniently, so that, at the present time, it is well adapted to the wants of the people. Mr. Thompson took an active interest in town affairs — the Lyceum, the Farmer's Club, the schools, of which he was superintendent. He was a man of lovely character and very popular as a townsman. Previous to coming to Boxborough he had been a home

missionary in Colorado for ten years, and he left the church here to become principal of Lawrence Academy, Groton, Mass. From Groton, he went to Elgin, Ill., where he remained several years as principal of an academy, but at the present time is residing with his family in Baltimore, Md.

Nov. 6, 1881, a call was extended to Rev. William Leonard, who labored with the church until April, 1884, when he removed to Barnstable, Mass. He was of English parentage. I quote a sentence from his centennial speech which seems to be characteristic of the man: "I preach what I believe and believe what I preach, and no man shall deprive me of this liberty."

Rev. George Dustan, of Peterboro, N. H., came to the church Dec. 1, 1884, and severed his connection with it the last of February, 1887, to take charge of the Orphan Asylum, Hartford, Conn. He had been pastor of the church in Peterboro for a period of twenty-five years. He was interested in town affairs, superintendent of schools, a member of the Grange and a very good preacher.

Rev. George A. Perkins, the present pastor, began his labors with the church in Boxborough April 1, 1887. Mr. Perkins was a missionary in Turkey for a number of years. He is a faithful pastor and preacher.

The First Parish continued their Sabbath services a part of the time for several years after the division of 1829, and then they were discontinued, and the organization finally became extinct. Other things of public interest, as the store, post-office, blacksmith and wagon-shop, etc., have disappeared from their wonted places on the hill, but the church, though in a different location, — through the earnest, continued efforts of her members, — still lives. Orthodox and Universalist meet and part and take each other by the hand, yet the old differences seem not wholly forgotten, the old scars not entirely obliterated. Time may accomplish what willing hearts cannot, and in the not far distant future the Universal Church, within whose fold all may work together in the service of our common Lord, haply shall spread its joyful wings

over all these peaceful hills and valleys. "May the Lord hasten it in His time."

In passing we would make mention of the Methodist Church, which was situated in the south-west part of the town something like eighty years ago, and which existed until 1843. I say in the south-west part of the town, but the building — although the intention was to build on Harvard ground — was really erected on the boundary line between Boxborough and Harvard, owing to uncertainty with regard to the exact location of said boundary. It was a small building painted red, and contiguous to it was a noble spreading oak. An amusing anecdote of this old house of worship is related by one of the older residents, who remembers the building well. A wayfarer passing along the Boxborough highway one afternoon inquired of a citizen whom he met the way to the old meeting-house. "O, go right along until you come to a little red house tied to an oak tree; that's the Methodist church," replied the person accosted, with more celerity than reverence. Although there was more or less Wesleyan preaching for several years, there was no preaching by appointment of the Conference after 1843. Some of the members transferred their church relationship to Harvard, others to the Congregational church in Boxborough, and others to surrounding towns; and finally, some years later, the church building was burned. The old oak still stands to mark the spot.

There are two organizations in which the farmers are banded together for improvement, and discussion of matters of interest, — the Farmer's Club and the Grange. The Farmer's Club has had its existence for something less than twenty years; the Grange has been organized only four years, yet it seems to be in successful operation and doing a good work.

We quote a few items, interesting by comparison with the present time, from "Statistical Information relating to certain Branches of Industry in Massachusetts for 1855," by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Francis DeWitt: "Boxborough — Value of Railroad cars, etc., m'd., \$500; cap., \$1000. Boots of all kinds m'd 250 pairs; shoes of all kinds

m'd., 4,600 pairs: value of boots and shoes, \$4000. Charcoal m'd., 3,500 bush.: val. of same, \$525. Butter, 13,640, lbs.: val. of butter, \$3,410. Hops, 14 1-2 acres: hops per acre, 700 lbs.: val., \$2556. Cranberries, 21 acres: val., \$512." A report of this kind of the present date would probably contain few or none of these items. No business except that of ordinary farming has obtained a foothold for a number of years. A city gentleman was recently excusing himself to one of our citizens on whom he made a business call for his lack of the knowledge of grammar. "I have a good business education; but I do not know much about grammar," said he. "The people of Boxborough might as well study grammar as not: there is nothing else to do," replied the host. Perhaps this anecdote somewhat exaggerates the situation, but we can gain an idea from it.

Boxborough celebrated her centennial anniversary, Feb. 24, 1883, "in the old meeting-house on the hill." The exercises throughout day and evening were interesting and enjoyable. Mr. F. P. Knowlton of Littleton gave an address, "Reminiscences," Rev. Nathan Thompson, a former pastor in the town, delivered the "Historical Address," and Mrs. G. F. Conant the "Centennial Poem." Mrs. M. E. Burroughs contributed the "Closing Hymn." After-dinner speeches, full of the "early days" by present and former townsmen, with readings by Mr. F. H. Pope of Leominster, and music, made up the programme. An account of the proceedings of this "day of ennobling retrospection and glad reunion" was afterwards published in pamphlet form, by the town.

The following are the town officers for the present year, 1891: Mr. A. Littlefield, N. E. Whitcomb, J. H. Whitcomb, Selectmen and Assessors; D. W. Cobleigh, Treasurer; George F. Keyes, Town Clerk; J. F. Hayward, Auditor; W. H. Furbush, N. E. Whitcomb, J. Warren Hayward, Road Commissioners; C. H. Blanchard, Lewis W. Richardson, Frank Whitcomb, A. M. Whitcomb, S. P. Dodge, S. B. Hager, School Committee; Frank A. Patch, Superintendent of Schools; C. T. Wetherbee, Constable and Collector.

## CHAPTER VI.

## GEOLOGY — FLORA — FAUNA.

## GEOLOGY.

AN interesting landscape feature of the town is Ridge Hill, an elevation of land very steep and narrow which extends about one half mile in a nearly direct line through lands of Messrs. N. Wetherbee, S. Hoar, B. S. Hager, and J. H. Orendorff, and finally merges itself in the adjoining hills. It is flanked on one side for a short distance by Muddy Pond and on the other by Beaver Brook. The soil is of coarse gravel and supports a growth of all kinds of trees, the whole ridge, with the exception of a few acres, being woodland. A narrow road or cart-path runs along the crest — which resembles a railroad bed — almost the entire length of the elevation.

As we wander through the fields, over the hills and along the valleys, and place our feet upon one rocky stratum and another, we are led to exclaim (with the disciple of old and with all reverence), “What manner of stones are here?” Whence came this formation? How far extend? Of what consist? Go into the cave or the quarry. Stand beneath the rocky dome, and while wondering at the work of man gaze with awe upon the creation of God.

Scientists teach that the earth was once a ball of gaseous matter changed by cooling and contraction first to a liquid form, then by continued cooling and contraction forming a thin granite crust. The melted interior broke through this crust and spread over the surface. This cooled and the crust increased in thickness, so that the melted interior broke through only in thin places. Particles of the surrounding atmosphere fell upon

the crust. Steam was condensed and formed clouds : clouds were consolidated and deluged the earth with torrents of rain. The melted interior surface cooled still farther and formed a solid crust. Under the influence of chemical action disintegration took place. The cooling earth became smaller, the crust wrinkled and folded and our mountain ranges appeared. Water washed off particles of these prominences and deposited them in layers on the bed of the oceans, and thus secondary rocks were formed. We find strata of these rocks on the earth's surface extending thousands of feet in thickness. As the earth still farther cooled, the crumpled, outer crust broke, and those once horizontal strata were upheaved and inclined at all angles, finally rising above the surface of the sea. The rocky ledges of our hills, the rough jutting crags in our pastures, our now unused quarries, are doubtless of these and subsequent formations.

The rocks of Boxborough are mainly limestone with its varying shades and degrees of texture : gneiss : common, sienitic and other coarse granites. Limestone is found in quite large quantities in the northeast part of the town toward Littleton, and some years ago the business of lime-burning was made quite prominent. The old kiln and quarry may still be seen upon the D. W. Cobleigh farm.

Magnesian limestone, found here, is used in the manufacture of Epsom salts or sulphate of magnesia.

Quartz, the most common mineral of our rocks and abounding in those of all ages, is the hardest of minerals, its durability being its greatest quality. Some fine specimens have been found in this neighborhood, of various kinds and colors. The smooth, uniformly colored stones of the pebble-bank, white, brown, yellow or black, are mostly quartz. Erosion wears out the softer materials and leaves the hard quartz constituents behind.

Feldspar or *Othoclase*, a very common mineral found in granite, is also abundant. It is the most common of the silicates. Our varieties are white, gray, and flesh-red in color. Green is also common. It is easily mistaken for quartz, and

although not quite so hard a mineral, is yet too hard to be scratched with a knife. It breaks with a bright even surface — brilliant in the sunshine — in one direction, and also in another direction at right angles with it but not so easily, while quartz has no cleavage. Crystallized feldspar occurs in gneiss.

Mica is observable in greater or less degree in many of our rocks — this mineral together with quartz and feldspar constituting common granite. It has a pearly lustre, and varies in color, our varieties comprising white, black, and gray. It has cleavage in laminae or plates, is elastic, tough and infusible. Very large plates are found in N. H., and in Siberia plates have been discovered over one yard in length. Mica, like feldspar, contains the elements of silica and alumina; the light-colored variety has besides these, potash; and the black kind contains magnesia and iron.

Black hornblende abounds in the sienitic granites and other rocks. It resembles mica, but is a very brittle mineral and cannot be split into leaves or scales with a knife point. It makes tough rocks, and therefore the first part of the name, *horn*: these heavy rocks look sometimes like an ore of iron and from this fact comes the second syllable, *blende*, a German word meaning blind or deceitful. This mineral contains, besides silica, iron, magnesia and lime.

Actinolite, a green variety of hornblende, is found in the magnesian rocks.

Radiated Actinolite, olive green, consisting of collections of coarse acicular fibers, also makes its appearance in the limestone; and Asbestos, resembling the radiated, but with more delicate fibers, may be found in the same kind of rocks.

Purple Scapolite, resembling feldspar, but with a slight fibrous appearance on cleavage surface, is especially common in granular limestone. Some fine crystals are discoverable in Boxborough. It occurs massive, as well.

Boltonite, from the limestone formation, of a greenish color, is a variety of Chrysolite.



Apatite, occurring in gneiss and granular limestone, has usually green, yellowish-green, bluish-green or grayish-green, crystals; some fine specimens are found in this locality.

Garnets, cinnamon-colored crystals, transparent, occur in gneiss and limestone.

Crystalline Augite occurs in Calcite Spar; specks of Serpentine, and Calcareous Spar, wine-yellow, in limestone.

Spinel, Petalite and other minerals are also found.

#### FLORA.

There are about 70 natural orders represented in the flora of this town, the most important being the pine family (*coniferae*).

White Pine (*Pinus strobus*), with its awl-shaped leaves and long, cylindrical hanging cones, is the largest.

Northern Pitch Pine (*Pinus rigida*), a stout tree with dark green leaves and clustered ovate-conical cones, grows on sandy soil.

Black or Double Spruce (*Abies nigra*) is common in the woods and swamps.

Hemlock Spruce (*Abies Canadensis*), — a large tree with coarse wood, — with its gracefully spreading branches is found on the hills.

Hackmatack, Tamarack or Bald Spruce (*Larix Americana*), a slender tree with short pale leaves and small cones, is also a native of the swamps.

Red Cedar (*Juniperus Virginiana*), is comparatively rare.

Juniper (*Juniperus communis*) is common in rocky pastures.

Of the deciduous trees, the maple, a fast grower, with its leafless branches in winter, full green foliage in summer and gorgeous autumn tints, is a favorite. We have three varieties:

White or Silver Maple (*Acer dasycarpum*), a handsome tree of the lowlands, with greenish apetalous flowers in earliest spring, grows most commonly along the banks of streams.

Red or Swamp Maple (*Acer Rubrum*) has later scarlet, crimson or yellow blossoms and is found in low grounds.

Rock or Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharinum*), valuable for wood, timber and the sugar of its sap, the largest of the species, here mainly takes the place of an ornamental shade tree.

Sweet, Black or Cherry Birch (*Betula lenta*) has fine grained valuable wood, spicy, aromatic leaves and bark, and is seen everywhere.

American White Birch (*Betula populifolia*), a graceful tree, the smallest of the birches, has glossy, triangular leaves and prefers sterile soil.

Paper or Canoe Birch (*Betula papyracea*) is not very common.

Yellow or Gray Birch (*Betula lutea*) is frequently seen with its silvery bark.

White Oak (*Quercus alba*), a large tree, — its edible fruit produced annually and usually sweet-tasted, — flourishes in rich soil.

Yellow or Gray Oak (*Quercus prinus*) inhabits the same localities as the former.

Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*), with its coarse, reddish wood, is abundant.

Chestnut Oak (*Quercus prinus*) occasionally greets the eye.

Black Scrub and Swamp Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia* and *palustris*) are other varieties.

Elms (*Ulmus Americana* and *racemosa*), well-known, large, majestic trees, are used for shade in many places and common everywhere.

Chestnut (*Castanea Americana*), an inhabitant of the hills and the woods, furnishes delicious nuts.

Butternut or White Walnut (*Juglans cinerea*), a medium-sized tree with rich oblong nuts, grows wild, also under cultivation.

Hickory (*Carya alba* and *porcina*), furnishes, the first, fine nuts; the second, those of an inferior quality. The first species is rare.

Basswood (*Tilia Americana*) is represented by a few scattered specimens.

White and Red Ash (*Fraxinus Americana* and *pubescens*) rear their ash-gray branches and smooth stalks in the fields and roadsides.

Poplar or Aspen (*Populus tremuloides* and *grandidentata*) are common to the woodlands.

Cherry (*Prunus serotina* and *Virginiana*,) wild black and choke cherry, have flowers in racemes and small fruits ripening in summer and autumn.

Mountain Ash (*Pyrus Americana*) is planted for ornament.

A few trees which have been introduced from Europe, Asia or elsewhere, may be added, as: Locust (*Robinia Pseudacacia*), Horse Chestnut (*Æsculus Hippocastanum*), Balm of Gilead (*Populus candicans*), Thorn (*Cratægus tomentosa*), Quince (*Cydonia vulgaris*), Pear (*Pyrus communis*), Apple (*Pyrus malus*), Peach (*Prunus Persica*), Plum (*Prunus domestica*), Cherry (*Prunus cerasus* and *avium*), Mulberry (*Morus alba*), Lombardy Poplar (*Populus dilatata*), White Poplar (*Populus alba*), Catalpa (*Catalpa bignonioides*) and Apricot (*Prunus Armeniaca*). <sub>a</sub>

Hornbeam (*Carpinus Americana*) resembling Beech, with very hard wood, is rarely found.

Leverwood (*Ostrya Virginica*) has birch-like leaves and grows on Ridge Hill.

Beech (*Fagus ferruginea*) is occasionally seen with its close, smooth, light-gray bark.

Of shrubs may be mentioned:—

Shad-bush (*Alnanchier Canadensis*), so called because it covers itself with white blossoms just when the shad appear in the rivers.

Hardhack and Meadow Sweet (*Spiræa tomentosa* and *salicifolia*) with their red and white blossoms abound by roadsides and in old pastures.

High and low Blackberry (*Rubus villosus* and *Canadensis*) flourish along thickets and fence-rows.

Raspberry (*Rubus strigosus* and *occidentalis*) is common along field borders.

Cornel or Dogwood (*Cornus*) grows from twelve to thirty feet in height and gladdens the eye with its profusion of creamy blossoms. Several species.

Arrow-wood (*Viburnum*) has several species: Sheep-berry (*V. Lentago*), Withe-rod (*V. nudum*), and Dockmackie (*V. acerifolium*).

Under the Heath family (*Ericaceae*) are: The Kalmias (*Latifolia* and *angustifolia*) Mountain and Sheep Laurel; the former with beautiful glossy leaves and rose or white flowers, the latter with crimson purple blossoms in our pastures; Azalea (*Viscosa*), very fragrant, with lovely white or rosy-tinged clammy flowers in summer; Rhodora (*Canadensis*) with rose-pink flowers appearing before the leaves in spring; Blueberry (*Vaccinium Pensylvanicum*, *Canadense* and *corymbosum*), the dwarf the earliest to ripen, and the swamp berry common to low grounds; Huckleberry (*Gaylussacia frondosa* and *resinosa*) with black and blue fruit flourishing in pastures; and the Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*) which is found in the meadows.

Sumach (*Rhus*) has three varieties. — Poison Ivy (*R. Toxicodendron*) a pestiferous plant, climbing by rootlets over walks and rocks or ascending trees; Poison Dogwood (*R. venenata*) a virulent shrub in swampy ground and Smooth Sumach (*R. Glabra*) the common variety in old pastures.

Alder (*Alnus incana*) finds a place by roadsides and streams.

Willow (*Salix*), several species, is abundant everywhere.

Sweet Fern (*Comptonia asplenifolia*) resembles a fern and is aromatic.

Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis Virginica*) flowers late in autumn, just as the leaves are about to fall.

Elder (*Sambucus Canadensis* and *pubens*) has black and red fruit, and white fragrant blossoms.

Button Bush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) ornaments the borders of ponds and streams, and has fragrant heads of white flowers in summer and autumn.

Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) with many-flowered yellow racemes and red oblong berries; Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*) pale

violet and white: Currant (*Ribes rubrum* and *aureum*): Gooseberry (*Ribes Grossularia* and *hertellum*): Rose (*Rosa*) including exotics, many species; Fever or Spice Bush (*Lindera Benzoin*): Hazel-nut (*Corylus Americana*): Sassafras (*S. officinale*): Grape Vines (*Vitis*) wild and cultivated: Woodbine or Virginia-Creeper (*Ampelopsis quinquefolia*): Andromeda (*ligustrina*): Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla trifida*): Choke Berry (*Pyrus arbutifolia*): Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), and others, are native here.

The following herbaceous plants are indigenous: Violet (*Viola*), yellow, white, pansy and blue, many species; Yellow Bellwort (*Utricularia*), several of the species with drooping yellow flowers in spring; Wake Robin (*Trillium cernuum*), with pure white petals also in spring; Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*), peduncles two flowered; Blood-root (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*), with beautiful white blossoms; Anemomy or Wind Flower (*Anemone*), several varieties with frail white or purple tinted flowers; Bluets (*Houstonia carulea*), with light blue or white yellowish eyed corolla; Saxifrage (*Saxifraga Virginensis*), blooming on ledges in early spring; Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*), with its nodding scarlet and yellow flowers, also making its home on the rocks; Jack-in-the-pulpit (*Arisema triphyllum*), rearing its sturdy form in moist places; Water Lily (*Nymphaea odorata*), very fragrant, growing abundantly in Muddy Pond and other waters; Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*), by brooksides, with brilliant deep red flowers in erect racemes; Golden Rod (*Solidago*) many species, Gentian (*Gentiana crinita*) and Asters, too numerous to mention, the last flowers to bid us farewell in the autumn.\*

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\* Herbaceous Plants according to families.

A dash — after the Latin name signifies many species.

Anemomy (*Anemone*) several species. Virgin's Bower (*Clematis*). Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum*). Crowfoot, Buttercup (*Ranunculus* —). Yellow Pond Lily (*Nuphar Advena*). Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). Celandine (*Chelidonium majus*). Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria Canadensis*). Pale Corydalis (*Corydalis glauca*). Mustard (*Brassica* —). Horse-radish (*Nasturtium*). Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella*). Violet (*Viola* —). Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*). Frostweed (*Helianthemum Canadense*). St. John's-wort (*Hypericum* —). Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*). Mouse-ear Chickweed (*Cerastium viscosum*). Common Starwort (*Stellaria media*). Sand Spurrey (*Spergularia rubra*).

There are about 160 species in the Sedge Family (*Cyperaceæ*), and many of these grow in our low meadows and half-reclaimed bogs.

The Grass Family (*Gramineæ*), a numerous one, has, among others, the following representatives: Red Top, White Top, Blue Joint, Orchard, Meadow, Spear, Wire, Fowl-Meadow, Common Chess, Meadow-soft, Herd's, Crab or Finger, Barn, Witch, June, Hassock, Cut, Broad-leaved Panic, and Tickle Grass.

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Purslane (*Portulaca oleracea*). Mallow (*Malva rotundifolia*). Indian Mallow (*Abutilon Avicennae*). Marsh Marigold (*Caltha*). Gold-thread (*Coptis*). Columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*). Water or Pond Lily (*Nymphaea*). Wood-sorrel (*Oxalis stricta*). Spotted Cranesbill (*Geranium maculatum*). Jewel-weed (*Impatiens pallida*). Fringed Polygala (*Polygala faucifolia*). Lupine (*Lupinus perennis*). Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*). Trefoil (*Trifolium*—). Ground Nut. (*Apis tuberosa*). Hog-peanut (*Amphicarpæa monoica*). False Indigo (*Baptisia*). Wild Senna (*Cassia Marilandica*). Cinquefoil (*Potentilla*—). Strawberry (*Fragaria vesca*). White Avena (*Geum Virginianum*). Agrimony (*Agrimonia Eupatoriæ*). Saxifrage (*Saxifraga Virginensis* and *Pennsylvanica*). Willow Herb (*Epilobium angustifolium* and *coloratum*). Evening Primrose (*Enothera*—). Carrot (*Daucus Carota*). Caraway. (*Carum Carvi*). Cleavers (*Galium asprellum*). Bunch Berry (*Cornus Canadensis*). Partridge Berry (*Mitchella repens*). Bluets (*Houstonia carulea*). Artichoke (*Cynara Scolymus*). Thistle (*Cirsium*—). Burdock (*Lappa officinalis*). Roman Wormwood (*Ambrosia artemisiifolia*). Common Wormwood (*A. Absinthium*). Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*). Immortelle (*Autennaria margaritacea*). Everlasting (*Gnaphalium*—). Thoroughwort (*Eupatorium perfoliatum* and *purpureum*). Golden Ragwort (*Senecio aureus*). Golden Rod (*Solidago*—). Starwort (*Aster*—). Yarrow (*Achillea Millefolium*). Mayweed (*Maeruta Cotula*). Oxeye Daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Ox-eye (*Heliopsis*). Bur-Marigold (*Bidens frondosa* and *chrysanthemoides*). Chicory (*Cichorium Intybus*). Hawkbit (*Leontodon autumnale*). Dandelion (*Taraxacum Dens-leonis*). Wild Lettuce (*Lactuca Canadensis*). Blue Lettuce (*Mulgedium leucophæum*). Lobelia (*Lobelia*—). Marsh Bellflower (*Campanula aparinoides*). Venus's Looking-glass (*Specularia perfoliata*). Asparagus (*officinalis*). Checkerberry (*Gaultheria procumbens*). Wintergreen (*Pyrola elliptica*). Pipsissewa (*Chimaphila umbellata*). Plantain (*Plantago major*). Loosestrife (*Lysimachia*—). Mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*). Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*). Cow wheat (*Melanthyrum americanum*). Foxglove (*Gerardia pedicularia*). Balmoney (*Chelone glabra*). Wood Betony (*Pedicularis Canadensis*). Penstemon (*Yuphescens*). Painted Cup (*Castilleja coccinea*). Spearmint (*Mentha viridis*). Heal-all (*Brunella vulgaris*). Motherwort (*Leonurus Cardiaca*). Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*). Bracted Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*). Bittersweet (*Solanum Dulcamara*). Fringed Gentian (*Gentiana crinita*). Milkweed (*Asclepias*—). Dogbane (*Apocynum androsacmifolium*). Garget (*Phytolacca decandra*). Pigweed (*Amarantus retroflexus*). Knotweed (*Polygonum*—). Rhubarb (*Rheum Rhaiponticum*). Dock, Sorrel (*Rumex*—). Nettle (*Urtica*—). Hop (*Humulus Lupulus*). Water Arum (*Calla palustris*). Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*). Sweet Flag (*Acorus Calamus*). Cat-tail Flag (*Typha latifolia*). Arrow-head (*Sagittaria variabilis*). Pickerel-weed (*Pontederia cordata*). Orchis (*Habenaria fimbriata* and *psycodes*). Ladies' Tresses (*Spiranthes cernua*). Rattlesnake Plantain (*Goodyera repens*). *Arethusa bulbosa*. Calopogon pulchellus. Pogonia. Lady's Slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*). Star-grass (*Hypoxys erecta*). Blue Flag (*Iris versicolor*). Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium Bermudiana*). Greenbrier (*Smilax rotundifolia*). Nodding Trillium (*cernuum*). Bellwort (*Uvularia perfoliata* and *sessilifolia*). False Solomon's Seal (*Smilacina bifolia* and *racemosa*). Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*). Lily (*Lilium Philadelphicum* and *Canadense*). Rush (*Juncus effusus*).

Of Cryptogamous plants the Horse-tail family (*Equisetaceæ*) is represented by several species; and of the Ferns (*Filices*) a large family, with their delicate or coarser fronds, the following species may be mentioned: Common Polypody, Maiden-hair, Common Brake, Spleenwort, Beech, Shield, Ostrich, Sensitive, Cinnamon and Royal or Buck's Horn Fern.

Club-moss (*Lycopodium*) flourishes in the trailing evergreens of our damp woods and hillsides.

Mosses and lichens of many varieties are abundant.

While the surface of the town is hilly and rocky, and the soil not deep, yet her sunny slopes are very productive. The hills are crowned with luxuriant orchards, and the pastures and roadsides abound in grapes and berries. Apples, pears, peaches, grapes, berries and vegetables are extensively cultivated for the Boston markets. Being only about twenty-seven miles distant from that city, these products can be shipped there, fresh, daily.

#### FAUNA.

Probably the Fauna of Boxborough is much the same as it was a hundred years ago. We find at the present time: muskrat, with its cone-shaped meadow house; mink, which inhabits the streams and ponds; the gray rabbit of the woods; the gray fox, and the sly, red fox, pest of our chicken yards; the skunk; the wood-chuck, our burrowing friend, lover of green peas and lettuce; weasels, slender and agile; squirrels, gray, red, (the Indian chickaree), flying, striped or chip-munk; the nimble far-leaping deer-mouse; shrew-mole and little, brown, star-nose mole; the bat, one species; wharf-rat, which causes the common black rat to disappear; the cunning field-mouse, and small mouse; and raccoon with its baby's foot-print.

The shooting of an eagle is a feat said to have been accomplished by one of the citizens in earlier days.

The following birds remain with us through the winter: crow, chickadee, snow-bunting, blue jay, English sparrow, black and white wood-pecker, quail and partridge.

In early spring, often in March, the blue-bird, robin, song-sparrow, and blue snow-bird return from the South. Later the

red-winged blackbird, gold-finch, purple finch, phebe and bobolink make their appearance. Soon after, usually coming under cover of night, appears a host, and then, some fine morning we are fairly awakened from our slumbers by "Nature's Hallelujah" going on just outside our windows. Brown thrushes, black-birds, cuckoos, brilliant plumaged orioles, swallows, — barn, chimney and martin, — warblers, — yellow, black, and white, — wrens, cat-birds, vireos, wood-cock, cedar or cherry birds, whippoorwills, red-headed and downy wood-peckers, mourning doves, herons, king-fishers, fire-birds, ducks, king-birds and tiny, ruby-throated, humming birds, all conspire to make vocal the passing hours. Hawks and owls, bringing destruction in their path, make their appearance with the others, and northward in spring, southward in autumn, with their peculiar note, flocks of wild geese take their flight.

Among reptiles may be mentioned the tortoise; black, brown, green and striped snakes; spotted adders; lizards, and toads and frogs of many varieties.

In the mid-summer and autumn, when the songs of the birds are hushed, the cricket and katy-did make field and woody copse resound with their weird music.

Trout, pickerel, horn-pouts and minnows inhabit the streams and ponds.

Spiders and insects\*, too numerous to mention, abound. Some of them are pests and nuisances like the Colorado beetle, while others, as the honey bee and butterfly, combine usefulness and beauty.

To these may be added the vibriones, bacteria, bacillii, animalculæ, and possibly that other microscopic family, the protista, if these may be called animals.

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\*Some of the insects: Beetles,—long-horned, water, whirling, flat-boring, snapping, death-watch or ticking; fire flies, Dorr bugs, rose bugs, weevils, cucumber bugs, squash bugs, grasshoppers and locusts or harvest flies, house and horse flies, dragon flies or devil's needles, saw flies, mosquitos, aphides, ants, wasps, hornets, bees of various kinds, butterflies, moths, caterpillars, cut-worms, canker worms, apple and meal worms.



## CHAPTER VII.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

## INDUSTRIES.

SIXTY years ago or more coopering was quite an important business. Lumber was plenty, and beef, pork, fish and cider barrels were manufactured in large quantities.

Cider-making was also extensively carried on in those days, and almost every farmer was careful to store in the autumn a goodly number of barrels of the enlivening beverage in his cellar. It was customary not only to use it freely in the family but also to "treat" with it at that time, and that one who was dilatory enough to be the last of the family to appear in the morning was doomed to be tapster. Something of the excessive use of cider may be gleaned from the remark of a farmer of this period who said, "I put eighty barrels into my cellar last fall, and I had them all washed out by the first of March." Times have changed, and now there are very few who keep it even for their own use.

After coopering came the hop-raising epoch, then the fruit and dairy business flourished for a time, followed by the milk and fruit business which engrosses the attention of the farmers at the present time. Small fruits have very recently become important. Most of the farmers are engaged in the production of milk for the Boston market.

## SHOEMAKERS' SHOPS.

Fifty or sixty years ago shoemakers' shops might have been found in Boxborough where the business was carried on to

some extent. At Reuben Houghton's shoes were manufactured and five or six hands were employed; also at Samuel and Nathaniel Mead's help was employed.

#### MILLS, SHOPS, MANUFACTORIES, ETC.

In the early days before the railroad there was an oil mill, Phineas Stone, afterwards Benjamin Draper, proprietor, situated on Maurice Griffin's place. Later Reuben Draper owned a wheelwright and blacksmith's shop, and Ephraim Robbins, a grist mill, which he had built,—on the John Griffin farm. The mill was afterwards owned by Stillman Whitcomb, a brother of Peter Whitcomb who subsequently came in possession of it. The mill interest was probably given up about that time. There was also a wheelwright and blacksmith's shop on the hill for many years, occupied by Geo. L. Peters,—who was living then in Mr. Crouch's house which he built,—and a blacksmith's shop on the spot where the Orthodox parsonage now stands, in which Mr. Wheeler did business.

A saw mill and a shingle mill once flourished above John Sherry's, on the brook flowing from the mill-pond situated where now are the smooth green acres of Horse Meadow.

A comb factory existed at the Silas Hoar place for a good many years, and at Charles Veasie's, William Emmons had a piano manufactory. Simon Draper had a shop for getting out piano stuff on the hill. It stood on a spot between where Mr. Lyman Mead's house and barn now stand.

Mr. Edmund Fletcher, living on the Littlefield farm, was a pork-packer, and carried on his business at that place.

#### STORES.

Somewhere about 1830, before West Acton was, and when the neighboring villages were in their infancy, Captain Lyman Bigelow was proprietor of an old store on the hill, situated where Mr. William Moore's carriage house now stands. It was the largest one for miles around and was patronized from far and near, citizens of Acton, Littleton and Harvard coming to it to do their trading. In those days it

was the custom — and Captain Bigelow's was no exception to the rule — for first class country stores to keep, in addition to a large variety of other articles, a goodly stock of liquors, thus doubtless increasing the number of their patrons.

Sometime before Captain Bigelow's proprietorship, Mr. Goodenough kept store, and also Mr. Hapgood: Mr. Hapgood was killed by the accidental discharge of a gun in his doorway, and Captain Bigelow purchased the business, probably keeping the old stand for a short time. He afterwards built a new store. Captain Bigelow was succeeded in the mercantile business by George B. Talbot, Lyman Waldo Bigelow, William Pitt Brigham, E. B. Cobleigh, Lyman Mead (about 1854), and others, but the store was finally given up about thirty-five years ago. The new store building situated on the original site is now Mr. Moore's barn. The upper floor of the building in former days was used as a hall, and the old people of today — the younger generation then — smile as they tell you of the many dances they have attended in it.

There was also a store for a short time, where Mr. Braman now lives, kept by Mr. Solomon Hager; and another situated in the corner of the pasture opposite the house where the Steele Brothers now reside, of which Samuel Hayward was proprietor. These were both grocery stores simply, the latter one doing business many years. Mr. Hayward's store building was finally removed to West Acton in 1845, where it became Mr. Faulkner's house.

#### WOMAN'S WORK AND DUTIES NOW AND FIFTY YEARS AGO.

“Forenoon and afternoon and night.  
Forenoon and afternoon and night.  
Forenoon and afternoon and — What!  
The empty song repeats itself. No more?  
Yea, this is life. Make this forenoon sublime;  
This afternoon a psalm: this night a prayer,  
And time is conquered and thy crown is won.”

If the idea advanced by the poet is correct then there is no *material* difference between woman's work and duties now and fifty or a hundred years ago. We fill the whole time with work

or duty of some kind, and as the poem has it, the hours and days, and years, repeat themselves, — and this is *life*. And yet there are differences in some departments of woman's work and duties of which we may speak. Fifty years ago our mothers did not have as much sewing to do as do we, or at least they were sufficiently sensible not to do so much. Said a lady — one of our older citizens — in speaking upon this subject, "Fifty years ago my mother hired a dress-maker for the day, — and I think the remuneration at that time was about seventy-five cents, — and she cut and basted four dresses such as were then worn, within that time, and did it all by hand, having no help whatever in her work except what aid was rendered by one member of the family in the way of basting on piping cord." In this wonderful last decade of the nineteenth century, the average dress-maker requires the whole day, at the expense of one dollar and a quarter or more, to cut and plan one dress, and she inveigles all the ladies of the household into her work-room, and keeps them supplied with folds, puffs, tucks, cuffs, collars, etc., etc., besides calling to her assistance a New Home, Hartford, or Wheeler and Wilson sewing-machine. Now we do not wish to acknowledge that we are less active or energetic — in other words, less *smart* — than our fore-mothers, and so unable to do as much work in the same time, and therefore we conclude and say they did not put as much work into a dress, ordinarily, fifty years ago as they do today.

Half a century ago the women of the household were up betimes setting and skimming milk, churning the cream, working and putting up butter, making cheese, washing pans and pails, etc. Nowadays, a certain number of milk-cans are left at the housewife's door each day to be washed and placed on the rack to dry, and that is about all that most of us know of the dairy business. Fifty years ago, all the knitting for the household was done by the women's active fingers. Now the greater part of our family hosiery is obtained from the machine-knit products of the dry-goods counter.

There was some weaving performed by the housewife fifty years ago: coarse fabrics, such as frocking, cheese and strainer-

cloth, were woven in the household. Even these are now, — as well as all other stuffs, — obtained from the factory looms.

At the beginning of the last half century, the washer-woman wearily turned and twisted and wrung the clothing from tub to tub, until hands and wrists ached with the operation: now, she quietly places the Eureka, or Universal, clothes-wringer on the side of her tub, presses her liege lord into service, finishes her washing betimes, and, comparatively unwearied, goes out and plays a game of croquet or lawn-tennis before dinner.

Fifty years ago the kitchen stove of a warm summer's day, or any other day for that matter, might be seen covered with kettles, — kettles for meats, kettles for vegetables, kettles for puddings, kettles for water: in short, no end of kettles to be lifted, cleaned and carried away, exhausting woman's time and strength: now, a three-story steamer on one corner of the range and a water-tank upon the back part of the same take the place of all these inconveniences. Outdoor farming implements have improved in even greater ratio.

When the Lyceum first began in Boxborough, the gentlemen, for the most part, took whatever active parts were taken in it. One of the first questions for discussion was this: "Resolved, that the rich man is more independent than the poor man." Mr. Solomon Hager took the affirmative, and Mr. Samuel Mead the negative side of the question. Mr. Hager won the argument. This little incident would show that although woman's work and duties have changed somewhat within the last fifty years, men's ideas have not, altogether, for that question would doubtless be decided in just the same way today. Beside the Lyceum, a half century ago, there were a few balls, two or three spelling-schools, and perhaps a singing-school to be attended. The programme for 1891 is something like this: Eighteen or twenty regular Grange meetings, twelve or fifteen sociables, two or three Y. P. S. C. E. entertainments, a dozen or so District Grange meetings, half a dozen Missionary meetings, besides occasional gatherings of other kinds; and

for these must be prepared, — a reading for the Grange evening, a recitation for the sociable, music for the Y. P. S. C. E., a report for the Missionary meeting, an essay for the District Grange, etc., etc. These duties, — or shall we call them simply *works*? — take the time and the strength of the women of today, whereas fifty years ago they scarcely were called upon for such work at all. These things, together with the duties of the home circle, at the present time, make the life of woman a very busy one. Today there is hardly any occupation or profession of importance to which man aspires that woman may not attain, if she be only willing to work for it. And those women who are at liberty to take such positions, no doubt consider that in accepting them they are not only doing their work but their duty as well. But any position worth achieving, any work worth accomplishing, requires steady, persistent effort on the part of the one who would win the race.

“ No temple ever rose from base to dome,  
A dream embalmed in stone, without slow toil  
And patient hand: \* \* \* Divinity  
Has set its seal upon brave souls, ‘ free will,’  
That means they may achieve, create, subdue,  
And stand preeminent, the arbiters  
Of Fate and not her slave.”

#### POST-OFFICE.

Sometime in the early part of the present century, through the efforts of Rev. Nathaniel Fletcher, — who formerly resided upon the D. W. Colleigh place, and who died in 1834 while filling the position of selectman, — the benefits of a post-office were conferred upon the people of Boxborough. At first it was established in Captain Lyman Bigelow's store and Captain Bigelow was postmaster. He was succeeded in this position by his son-in-law, George B. Talbot, his son Lyman Waldo Bigelow, then by a nephew of Mr. Talbot, and William Pitt Brigham. Afterwards the post-office was removed to Mr. Jerome Priest's, with Oliver Wetherbee postmaster, who retained the position until the office was given up. After a time by a union of forces the Boxborough office was removed

to the village of West Acton, and thus was made to serve for both places, the Boxborough mail, for some slight consideration, being sent on to that place by some one of her citizens. The branch office at different times was stationed at James R. Hayden's, Mr. Jackson's, (Peter Whitcomb place), Mr. Felch's and Mr. Walter Mead's.

Fifty or sixty years ago Mr. Haradon drove the old stage-coach from Concord to Harvard, and bringing the mail-bag deposited it at the house of Nathaniel Mead, whence it was taken by Captain Bigelow to the office in his store. Later Mr. Bridge of Harvard carried it with his four-horse stage, which afterwards degenerated to a two-horse one, and finally was discontinued altogether as the railroad made its appearance. At last, no one wishing to be troubled with the care of the mail, it was no longer sent to Boxborough, but West Acton became the office for both places.

#### LYCEUMS.

Between fifty and sixty years ago, the old Lyceum held its meetings in the town hall. Captain Lyman Bigelow was president, Samuel Mead, vice-president, and Mr. Wood, secretary. Here the town's people met together. Here the citizens made their maiden speeches or gave utterance to their more finished flights of oratory. Later a young people's Lyceum was organized which held its meetings at No. 1 school-house, but this was neither so well attended nor so far-reaching in its influence as the other.

Nov. 27, 1852, a Debating Club was organized with the following officers: Oliver Wetherbee, president; Granville Whitcomb, vice-president; S. W. Draper, secretary; Eliab G. Reed, treasurer; Luke Blanchard, Reuben M. Draper and Lyman Mead, directors. Ladies were admitted to the Club as honorary members. Thirty-seven names appear upon the records of this society, which held its meetings only until Jan. 1855. Questions of world-wide interest were freely discussed by disputants appointed at a previous meeting; among them we notice the names of many of the older citizens of today.

An interesting occurrence in connection with this short-lived organization was a Tea Party which was given in 1853. E. G. Reed, Luke Blanchard, Mrs. A. A. Reed and Miss Caroline Blanchard were chosen a committee to superintend the affair. The committee reported a balance in their hand, over and above all expenses, of \$109.93, and it was forthwith voted to have a singing-school; also, a committee was chosen to hire a master and superintend the opening of said school the following November.

During the time that Rev. N. Thompson was pastor of the Congregational church (1876-1881), another Lyceum was organized. It was the outcome of the Historical Society which had previously been formed through the influence of Mr. Thompson and his wife. The meetings of this society were held at the parsonage. The following names were on its membership list: Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Conant, Mr. and Mrs. Willard Blanchard, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Orendorff, Mr. and Mrs. R. Y. Nelson, Cornelia Hayward, Clara Hamilton, Mary E. Hager, and Clara and Quincy Hayward. With the thought in mind that perhaps an organization like the Lyceum would benefit a larger number, it was decided to merge the society in the Lyceum and the change was effected one evening at the vestry at a meeting of the Ladies' Circle. This last Lyceum flourished for a few years and then the interest flagged and the meetings finally ceased. Its place is very well supplied at present by the Grange.

#### MILITARY COMPANIES.

Many years ago the "Slam Bang Company" was an institution in Boxborough. Mr. James Hayward of West Acton was a captain in this company, also Oliver Taylor, Sr., and Oliver Taylor, Jr. The official titles of many of the older residents indicate their probable connection with it. In later times the "Boxborough Light Infantry Company" absorbed the interest of her patriotic young men. It was organized about 1838 or '40, with the following commissioned officers: captain, Varnum Taylor; 1st lieutenant, Wm. Pitt Brigham;



2d lieutenant, John Wetherbee; 3d lieutenant, Solomon Hager; and 1st sergeant, Levi Stevens. Gayly equipped in their blue broadcloth uniforms and white epaulets, they presented a pleasing sight as they met annually for their three days' training.

An amusing anecdote is related of this company. Captain Taylor having resigned, the captaincy was tendered Mr. Brigham, the 1st lieutenant. He having declined the honor, the remaining officers were passed by and the position offered to Corporal Dustin, a non-commissioned officer, who accepted it. One day, having promised to parade with his company on Harvard Common, Captain Dustin started out with them; but upon arriving at Harvard line they refused to stir a step farther. Enraged at this behavior he marched them over every road in town as far as the boundary line before he dismissed them.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

March 16, 1891, the town passed a vote availing themselves of the provisions of the Acts of the Legislature of 1890, Chapter 347, for promoting the establishment of a Free Public Library. They appointed Mr. A. W. Wetherbee and Miss Mabel B. Priest trustees for one year, Mr. J. H. Orendorff and Mrs. Charles H. Burroughs for two years, and Mr. Albert Littlefield and Mrs. Simon B. Hager, for three years, and appropriated a sum of money sufficient to meet the State requirement, also one hundred dollars for general library purposes. At a meeting of the trustees, Mr. Littlefield was chosen chairman, Mrs. Hager, secretary, J. H. Orendorff, Mrs. C. H. Burroughs and Miss M. B. Priest, finance committee, J. H. Orendorff, A. W. Wetherbee and A. Littlefield, library committee, and Mrs. J. H. Orendorff, librarian. One hundred and eighty-six volumes have been placed in the Library Room at J. H. Orendorff's in charge of the librarian, and there is a sum of money — about seventy dollars, a part of it the contribution of the Grange — in finance committee's hands for the purchase of more books.

## MAY PARTY.

A May Party has been held at No. 3 school-house on the first of May every year for the past twenty years. It originated with Mr. Oliver Wetherbee, superintendent of the schools. At first only a few families, taking their lunch with them, met together at the school-house, and spent the day planting trees in the school-yard. After a time, the yard being full, no more trees were set, but the occasion became one of reunion for the pupils and friends of the school. May 1, 1891, they held their twentieth reunion. Not only the former pupils with their families and friends, but guests from all parts of the town were present and participated in the bountiful collation at noon, also the interesting programme of music and speeches which succeeded it. Mrs. Simon B. Hager presented the following original poem:

## MAY-DAY, NO. 3 SCHOOL.

1871—1891.

The twentieth year! and once again,  
 We stand within these walls today;  
 Within us beat the hearts of men.—  
 Around us breathe the airs of May.  
 A score of years! not very long  
 Since at the first a few there met  
 And lunched to tune of Nature's song,  
 And in the yard the first trees set.

This house, then, like the day, was new,  
 And hands were brisk and hearts were light;  
 We planted saplings and they grew.  
 And year by year, to left and right,  
 Increased in number, till the yard  
 Was,—as our hearts are sometimes,—full;  
 Thenceforth from planting trees debarred,  
 We've come of Friendship's flowers to cull.

Reunions three, within the score,  
 The elements have had their will,  
 Till darkling clouds could weep no more,  
 And Nature's voice was hushed and still.  
 Yet one, whose songs we oft recall,  
 Wrote what is "best" for you and me:  
 "Into each life some rain must fall,  
 Some days must dark and dreary be."

This gladsome day its fulness yields.  
 We list the music of the rill ;  
 The sweet May blooms are in the fields.  
 We've but to stoop our hands to fill.  
 The twentieth year ! and sunny days  
 Have been, as are the flowers of spring,  
 As freely given along our ways  
 With hope and gladness blossoming.

Today, from homes afar and near, —  
 The books and slates all left behind,—  
 We come to join this May-day cheer,  
 Assured we shall a welcome find.  
 Around the well-filled board we meet,  
 Glad reminiscences prolong,  
 Take once again the pupil's seat,  
 While well-known voices blend in song.

But through the branches of the trees,  
 The leafy grove our hands have set,  
 Is borne upon the quiet breeze,  
 A whisper we may not forget ;  
 "We're *not all* here ! We're not *all* here !"  
 Ay, broken is our merry band ;  
 This is, indeed, the twentieth year,  
 And two have passed them o'er the strand.

They've entered in a higher class,  
 While parents, teachers, scholars, wait ;  
 No more we'll meet them, till we pass  
 The ever inward turning gate.  
 Again the zephyrs call anon :  
 "The Twentieth Year lifts up her voice :  
 Learn well thy task ; the victory won.  
 Within thy Father's house, rejoice."

## MAGAZINE CLUBS.

A Magazine Club was organized September 1879, which has been in successful operation down to the present time. Mr. A. W. Wetherbee is president, and Mrs. J. H. Orendorff, secretary. Their periodicals, *Atlantic*, *Scribner's*, *Century*, *St. Nicholas*, *Harper's*, *Forum* and *Independent*, are each passed to some one member to be kept for a specified time and then passed on to another for the same length of time until all have had the reading of them. Each citizen pays one dollar and a half a year for the privilege of becoming a member.

Through the influence of Mrs. N. Thompson and Miss Minnie Burroughs, a Juvenile Club was organized a year ago, which has a membership of eighteen young people and is doing a good work. The fee is only twenty-five cents a year and the very best juvenile literature is taken. Miss Burroughs has charge of it.

#### GRANGE.

Order Patrons of Husbandry. Hon. O. H. Kelley now of Florida originated it Dec. 4, 1867, in Washington, D. C. The order rapidly increasing spread throughout our country and even into the British provinces, gathering a large membership.

Boxborough Grange No. 131 was organized in March 1886, and held its first regular meeting March 11, of that year. Mr. A. Littlefield was chosen master, Mr. J. H. Orendorff, overseer, Miss Mabel B. Priest, lecturer, and Mrs. J. H. Orendorff, secretary. Mr. Littlefield was followed by S. B. Hager and A. M. Whitcomb in the master's chair; Messrs. C. T. Wetherbee, S. B. Hager, W. H. Furbush and A. M. Whitcomb have served as overseers; Miss M. E. Hager, Mr. C. T. Wetherbee and Mr. A. Littlefield have filled the lecturer's position and Mr. J. H. Orendorff, Miss M. E. Hager, Miss M. B. Priest, A. M. Whitcomb and Miss N. S. Loring, have held the office of secretary.

The present membership is fifty-four. The organization holds its meetings at the town hall the second and fourth Friday of each month from October to March inclusive, the remainder of the year, one meeting upon the second Friday of each month.

The objects of the Grange are to educate and elevate all those who become members of it. The order of exercises at the meetings consists of readings, recitations, essays, music, or discussions upon the various agricultural subjects.

#### FARMER'S CLUB.

Boxborough Farmer's Club was organized Mar. 2, 1874, at the house of Mr. E. B. Cobleigh, by the following choice of officers: president, E. B. Cobleigh; vice-president, D. W. Cob-

leigh : secretary, A. W. Wetherbee : treasurer, N. E. Whitcomb. These officers must have been faithful to their duties, for they were repeatedly chosen and served continuously until 1881, when a new board was elected. At first, they held their meetings once a week, through the winter season, at the house of the members — later, once in two weeks, a part of the time at the Town Hall, and agricultural questions of interest and importance were freely and helpfully discussed. Quite a number of open meetings have been held for which pleasant and profitable entertainments have been prepared. It is customary for the Club to have a biennial fair and dinner, at the Town Hall, a custom originating in 1874, the same year the organization began its existence, and which (the first fair having been pronounced a "decided success") has been kept alive ever since.

The Club has also been accustomed to give an annual oyster supper and entertainment. The first one was given in 1876, the second year of its organization.

We give a list of officers during the seventeen years of the Club's existence.

PRESIDENTS.

E. B. Cobleigh,	10 years.	A. Littlefield,	1 year.
George F. Conant,	1 year.	C. T. Wetherbee,	3 years.
J. H. Orendorff,	1 year.	C. H. Burroughs,	1 year.
J. F. Hayward,	1 year.		

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

D. W. Cobleigh,	9 years.	N. E. Whitcomb,	6 years.
S. H. Hoar,	1 year.	G. Veasie,	2 years.

SECRETARIES.

A. W. Wetherbee,	17 years.	R. T. Cobleigh,	1 year.
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TREASURERS.

N. E. Whitcomb,	8 years.	E. B. Cobleigh,	2 years.
D. W. Cobleigh,	5 years.	J. H. Orendorff,	2 years.
Wm. Moore,	1 year.		

There are sixty-five names on the membership list at the present time.

## LADIES' CIRCLE.

The Ladies' Social Circle, an important accessory in the work of the Congregational Church, was organized April 23, 1842, and is now, therefore, nearing the farther shore of half a century of benevolent work. The first meeting — at which a constitution was adopted — was held at the house of Rev. J. D. Farnsworth. The following articles of this code of laws may be of interest:

Article 1. This Society shall be called the Boxborough Female Sewing Circle.

Article 2. The object of this Society shall be to do good by raising and appropriating funds for benevolent purposes, by the avails of our labors and industry, and by the contribution of money.

Article 3. Any female may become a member of this Society by paying annually the sum of twenty-five cents, and regularly attending the meetings. Children under sixteen years of age may become members by paying annually twelve and one-half cents.

The society organized with thirteen members, whose names are hereby given: Rebecca M. T. Farnsworth, Dolly H. Wright, Hannah W. Cobleigh, Maria Stevens, Mary Ann Hayward, Susan Hayward, Harriet A. Hayward, Anna Hayward, Sophia L. Hayward, Eliza Ann Hayward, Sophia Stevens, Louisa S. B. Wetherbee, and Lucinda Wetherbee.

May 10, 1842, the Society met at Mr. Farnsworth's and elected its first officers: viz., Mrs. R. M. T. Farnsworth, president; Mrs. H. A. Hayward, vice-president; Mrs. H. A. Hayward, secretary; and Miss Mary A. Hayward, treasurer.

June 13, 1855, the name of the organization was changed to Boxborough Social Circle, and the Society reorganized with thirty-nine members, the names of eleven gentlemen appearing on the list at this time. At this meeting, beside other changes, Article 2d of the Constitution was revised so as to read: "The object of this Society shall be to raise funds to repair our church."

The treasurer's books show that several hundred dollars were contributed toward the recent repairs upon the church, that the

young people — banded into a society among themselves — gave the pulpit furniture, and items of substantial pecuniary aid mark the records all along the way, especially during the later years. In earlier times work for the needy ones more particularly filled up the hours of the Circle afternoon, and during the late war, much was done to assist the soldiers by the ladies of this society, but now that work on this line is less called for, their energies have been expended in raising money for church expenses and church work. We quote the following from the treasurer's book : " April, 1884, Paid toward minister's salary, \$35.93 ; 1885, 3 dozen chairs, \$18.00 ; tin roofing, \$16.50 ; fuel for church, \$12.84 ; 1886, toward note, \$75.00 ; 1887, plating knives and forks, \$14.40 ; coal, \$14.27 ; 1888, painting parsonage, \$50.00 ; coal, \$14.07 ; 1889, painting church, labor, paint, brushes, etc, \$48.60 ; 1890, lumber, nails, work, etc., for three sheds, \$84.86." These items are interspersed amid numerous smaller items, showing that the financial assistance rendered the church in this way has been considerable. The credit side of the account shows that funds for these purposes were raised from suppers, festivals, entertainments, membership fees, work, etc.

" In Memoriam," by Mrs. C. A. Nelson, under date of 1881 of the secretary's books, will show something of the character of these devoted workers. She writes : " Since our last record was made, one of our members has passed from earth to heaven. We all know of the weary days and nights of suffering which for many long weeks has been the lot of our sister, Mrs. Catharine W. Hayward. Some of us know something of her quiet resignation and patient waiting for the coming of her Lord.

" Her name appears upon almost the first page of this book, and occurs with much frequency all through its record of forty years, many times as one of its chief directors. Always a ready cheerful worker, delighting in any service for God and His church, we turned often and instinctively to her to lead the way in all good and wise enterprises which our Circle wished to undertake for the church or the poor and needy.

“During the months that we were working to accomplish all we might in the way of raising funds for the furnishing of our repaired church, or making ready the carpet purchased for it, Mrs. Hayward was full of zeal and good works, and their perfume seems not yet to have departed from the Sanctuary which she loved and labored for.

“In September, Mrs. Joseph K. Blanchard, for nearly forty years a member of this Circle, and for a longer time of the church, passed to her rest after very brief sickness, a true ‘Mother in Israel,’ a woman of faith and prayer, and beloved of her God. ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.’ We *trust*, though at times we hardly *see* it, that it is expedient for us that they are gone away, if only we will not hinder the Lord from sanctifying our loss to all our souls; for hearts that are never bruised and sorrowful feel no need of the Comforter. ‘Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth.’”

Again, in 1888, another token of remembrance is recorded : “Since our last meeting one of our band, Mrs. Stevens Hayward, has left us and gone to her reward. She had been among us over forty-five years, and usually a member of this society. We shall miss seeing her face at these gatherings. She was one who enjoyed such occasions, although her health was such that much of the past year she was unable to be present with us.”

The records all the way along speak to us of earnest endeavor and faithful service rendered to the Master.

The following names are recorded as officers of this Society.

#### PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. R. M. T. Farnsworth, 6 yrs.	Mrs. D. Mc Clenning, 1 year.
Mrs. R. E. G. Luce, 3 years.	Mrs. John Wetherbee, 1 year.
Mrs. C. W. Hayward, 5 years.	Mrs. N. Thompson, 2 years.
Mrs. A. Jackson, 1 year.	Mrs. M. E. Wood, 4 years.
Mrs. J. K. Blanchard, 1 year.	Mrs. George Dustan, 3 years.
Mrs. S. J. Holbrook, 1 year.	Mrs. George A. Perkins, 4 years.

#### VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Mrs. H. A. Hayward, 2 years.	Mrs. B. S. Mead, 2 years.
Mrs. C. W. Hayward, 6 years.	Mrs. E. W. Hayward, 1 year.
Mrs. S. A. Whitcomb, 3 years.	Mrs. M. E. Wood, 8 years.



Mrs. M. C. Davis,	3 years.	Mrs. N. E. Whitcomb,	6 years.
Mrs. M. Stevens,	1 year.	Mrs. C. A. Nelson,	1 year.
Mrs. J. Whitcomb,	1 year.		

TREASURERS.

Miss Mary A. Hayward,	2 years.	Miss Lucy A. Blanchard,	3 years.
Miss Lucinda Wetherbee,	3 yrs.	Mrs. A. W. Wetherbee,	1 year.
Miss Susan T. Farnsworth,	1 yr.	Mrs. Minnie L. Kingsbury,	7 yrs.
Miss Anna Hayward,	5 years.	Miss Mary E. Hager,	7 years.
Miss M. M. Wetherbee,	1 year.	Mrs. Chas. L. Woodward,	1 yr.
Miss Maria Whitcomb,	1 year.		

SECRETARIES.

Mrs. H. A. Hayward,	1 year.	Mrs. Alice Hayward,	1 year.
Mrs. L. S. B. Wetherbee,	1 year.	Miss C. A. Blanchard,	4 years.
Miss Mary A. Hayward,	8 years.	Mrs. Chas. L. Woodward,	4 yrs.
Mrs. Mary H. Stevens,	1 year.	Miss Mary E. Hager,	4 years.
Miss M. M. Wetherbee,	1 year.	Mrs. E. C. Mead,	7 years.

The Society holds its meetings the first Thursday of each month.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

A missionary society of fifteen members was formed Dec. 1, 1887, which holds its meetings once a quarter in connection with the Circle. Mrs. G. A. Perkins, president, and Mrs. S. B. Hager, secretary and treasurer, have continued in these positions ever since the organization of the society. Though the number of members is small a goodly sum of money is appropriated toward the cause of missions each year.

Y. P. S. C. E.

A Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was also organized three or four years ago among the young people of the church, which holds its meetings Sunday evenings in the vestry, before the regular prayer meeting.

TAX PAYERS.

The following is a copy of a list of the tax payers of Boxborough in 1789:—

Names.	Polls.	Real.	Personal.
Dea. Oliver Mead,	1	297	28
Ins. Samuel Wetherbee,	1	300	22

Names	Polls.	Real.	Personal.
Sam'l Wetherbee, Jr., . . .	1		14
Simeon Wetherbee, . . .	1	230	25
Silas Wetherbee, . . .	1	135	14
Isaac Batchelor, . . .	1	135	17
Levi Wetherbee, . . .	1	195	21
John Burges, . . .	1	135	22
Henry Cooledg, . . .	1		
James D. Cooledg, . . .	1	480	40
Silas Stone, . . .	2	375	57
Benjamin Stevens, . . .	1	112	22
Capt. Oliver Taylor, . . .	1	190	22
Lt. Solomon Taylor, . . .	1	190	22
John Taylor, . . .	1	8	3
Abel Whitcomb, . . .	2	300	33
Lt. James Whitcomb, . . .	1	180	24
Eleazer Stearns, . . .	0	60	
David Stearns, . . .	1	60	6
Jonathan Stearns, . . .	2	60	12
Joseph Meed, . . .	0		
Jonathan Croutch, . . .	1		
Leonard Whitcomb, . . .	1		
Jonathan Croutch, Jr., . . .	1	75	2
Ens. Timothy Croutch, . . .	1	90	15
Lemuel Sawyer, . . .	1	384	21
Oliver Sawyer, . . .	2	156	11
Oliver Sawyer, Jr., . . .	1		
Joseph Sawyer, . . .	2	90	6
James Robins, . . .	1	25	5
Jotham Whitcomb, . . .	1	20	2
Ens. Benjamin Robins, . . .		26	
Jacob Robins, . . .		16	
David Croutch, . . .			
Dea. Phineas Farbank, . . .		6	
Samuel Meed, . . .		5	
Capt. Joseph Farbank, . . .		56	
Silas Rand, . . .		8	
Dea. Amos Farbank, . . .		18	
John Sawyer, . . .		8	
Eliphelit Wood, . . .		4	

Names.	Polls.	Real.	Personal.
Isaiah Whitney, . . . .		19	
John Codman, Esq., . . . .		60	
Lt. Nathaniel Longley, . . . .		6	
Jeremiah Priest, . . . .	1		
Wid. Mary Priest, . . . .		25	2
Joseph Houghton, . . . .		40	5
Joseph Willard, guardian, . . . .		3	
Oliver Houghton, . . . .	1	40	6
Samuel Worster, . . . .	1	36	
Prince Chester, . . . .		20	4
Aaron Whitney, . . . .		9	
John Croutch, . . . .	2	60	5
John Croutch, Jr., . . . .	1		3
Allin McLain, . . . .	0	10	
John Lomas, . . . .		10	
Timothy Shattuck, . . . .	1	12	2
Wid. Anna Houghton, . . . .		12	1
Wid. Anna Robins, . . . .		5	
Jacob Warren, Heirs, . . . .		8	
Thomas Gates, . . . .		12	
Doct. Daniel Robins, . . . .	1	74 <sup>¢</sup>	8
John Robins, . . . .		4	
Jeremiah Priest, . . . .	1		
Richard Goldsmith, . . . .		9	
Daniel Robins, . . . .	1		
David Dickerson, . . . .	1		
Sampson Worster, . . . .	0		
Elias Warner, . . . .	0		
Elijah Priest, . . . .	1		

For 1844, — fifty-five years later, — the Resident list is as follows :—

	Total Tax.		Total Tax.
Simon Blanchard,	\$16.50	Garret J. Bradt,	\$7.44
Joseph K. Blanchard,	3.77	Wm. P. Brigham,	3.05
John Blanchard,	4.64	Barnard Battles,	3.27
Luther Blanchard,	.48	Lyman Bigelow's Heirs,	13.22
Joseph Blanchard,	.50	John S. Brooks,	.50
Joseph Blanchard's Heirs,	4.60	Lucy Chester,	1.17
Marshall Blanchard,	1.71	Prince J. Chester,	1.34

	Total Tax.		Total Tax.
Jas. S. Chester,	\$1.35	Benj. W. Priest,	\$2.88
George T. Chester,	.07	Jerome Priest,	3.18
Daniel Cobleigh,	4.53	Dio O. Page,	2.25
John Cobleigh,	.50	Nathan Patch,	2.67
Jonathan Crouch,	.58	Benj. H. Patch,	.50
Daniel McCarthy,	2.06	Jona W. Patch,	1.11
Wm. Davis,	2.03	Isaac Patch,	6.59
Benjamin Draper,	5.20	Liberty C. Raymond,	.64
Leander G. Dustan,	.60	Samuel Sargent,	2.78
Wm. H. Emmons,	2.90	Samuel Sargent, Jr.,	1.64
John Fletcher,	5.30	William Stevens,	3.01
James D. Farnsworth,	.64	Oliver W. Stevens,	3.21
Lewis H. Graham,	6.23	Levi W. Stevens,	5.23
James C. Graham,	2.84	James Stevens,	.54
James Hayward,	10.49	George A. Stevens,	1.87
Stevens Hayward,	5.13	Jasper Stone,	9.13
Stevens Hayward, 2d,	1.67	Henry Smith,	.50
Ebenezer Hayward,	9.89	Varnum Taylor,	3.17
Albert Hayward,	1.48	Samuel Hill Taylor,	.50
Samuel Hayward,	9.35	Geo. B. Talbot,	2.21
Joseph Hayward,	1.64	John Wetherbee,	1.97
Martin Hayward,	.56	John Wetherbee, Jr.,	3.45
Arnold Hayward,	.50	John Wetherbee, 2d,	7.10
Paul Hayward's Heirs,	3.90	John R. Wetherbee,	.50
Solomon Hager,	.50	Oliver Wetherbee,	3.45
George Hager,	2.32	Simeon Wetherbee,	5.32
John Hoar,	3.53	Emory Wetherbee,	.56
Cephas Hartwell,	1.04	Samuel Wetherbee,	8.70
Phineas W. Houghton,	3.10	Silas Wetherbee's Heirs,	7.71
Tower Hazard,	1.60	Moses Whitcomb,	6.72
Stillman Jewett,	.70	Moses Whitcomb, Jr.,	4.13
Edmund Lawrence,	3.56	Daniel Whitcomb,	.93
Lankford Lawrence,	.60	Ephraim Whitcomb,	8.66
Henry G. Lewis,	.76	Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr.,	.50
James Mace,	8.18	Joel Whitcomb,	.50
Oliver Mead,	10.89	Joab Whitcomb,	.50
Samuel Mead,	4.06	Peter Whitcomb,	6.98
Nathaniel Mead,	3.27	Peter Whitcomb, Jr.,	3.28
Sampson Moore,	1.01	Granville Whitcomb,	.96
Benjamin Priest,	2.86	Merrill Whitcomb,	.62

Wid. Sally Whitcomb,	\$1.18	Jacob Littlefield,	\$2.44
J. Lyman Whitcomb,	3.12	Oliver W. Whitcomb,	.50
Peter Wheeler,	3.70	Hiram Davidson,	.50
Joel Wright,	1.22	Wid. Lucy Hayward,	3.52
Joel E. Wright,	.50	William Withington,	.90
Carshena Wood,	5.24	Abel Howe,	.50
John H. Wood,	.50	William Williston,	6.25
Joshua R. Russell,	.50		

For 1889, one hundred years later than the first record, we have the following names from the assessor's books :

E. B. Cobleigh.	Wm. Withington.
Wm. Moore.	James S. Braman.
Jerome Priest.	S. N. Wetherbee.
Andrew Crouch.	Uria Stone.
Morris Griffin.	J. H. Whitcomb.
Ed. Griffin.	E. C. Mead.
John Griffin.	C. H. Blanchard.
John Sherry.	R. Y. Nelson.
N. E. Whitcomb.	J. B. Loscow.
Chas. Brown.	J. B. Perkins.
Oliver Mead.	Albert Perkins.
Emery Mead.	A. Littlefield.
Walter Mead.	George Blanchard.
Oliver Stevens.	John Blanchard.
Philip Cunningham.	Simon Hartwell.
Newell Chester.	Jerome Whitney.
Mrs. Mary Willis.	Granville Whitcomb.
James S. Chester.	W. White.
Giles S. Chester.	Alvin Parker.
Simeon Wetherbee.	O. Ewings.
Stevens Hayward.	J. S. Wright.
Amasa A. Richardson.	W. H. Gooch.
Lewis W. Richardson.	Ephraim Cobleigh.
J. W. Hayward.	Nelson Cobleigh.
Dea. M. E. Wood.	A. W. Campbell.
Mrs. E. A. Hayward.	Geo. F. Keyes.
M. Coffey.	Chas. H. Veasie.
John Coffey.	Veasie Heirs.
John McGrath.	D. W. Cobleigh.

C. H. Burroughs.	Mrs. D. W. Cobleigh.
J. R. Hayden.	J. A. Walker.
Peter Whitcomb.	J. F. Hayward.
George A. Perkins.	B. S. Mead.
Steele Brothers.	B. S. Hager.
Mrs. E. L. Battles.	W. A. Perkins.
John Bezanson.	James Profit.
George W. Burroughs.	Thomas Redwood.
George Brown.	George W. Stone.
W. H. Brown.	Mrs. J. E. Shufelt.
George W. Barnard.	T. C. Steele
Stanley A. Barton.	John Tracy.
Mrs. Ann Cobleigh.	A. W. Wetherbee.
Harriet Cobleigh.	Daniel Whitcomb.
A. J. Chester.	Betsey Whitcomb.
Thomas Connors.	Whitcomb and Hager.
Chas. Cameron.	Arthur H. Wetherbee.
James Croft.	Caroline B. Wetherbee.
Mrs. R. J. Ewings.	Betsey Walker.
Jerry Griffin.	Andrew M. Walker.
Mary Griffin.	E. W. Whitney.
Michael Griffin.	E. C. Society.
John Gooch.	Chas. Williston.
Charles H. Griffin.	D. W. Cobleigh, Veasie Prop'ty.
J. Q. Hayward.	Peter Whitcomb, Adm.
W. J. Hayden.	Burpee Steele.
Charles Myers.	Church Steele.
Arthur McGinis.	J. Littlefield Estate.
Alex. MacDonald.	E. L. Woodward.
Miss Sarah Hager.	S. B. Hager.
Mrs. E. B. Hager.	W. H. Furbush.
Edward Wetherbee.	S. P. Dodge.
C. T. Wetherbee.	R. T. Cobleigh.
Silas Hoar.	John R. Cobleigh.
J. H. Orendorff.	

## CENSUS.

From the State Census for 1885, we quote the following items :

Unmarried men from 19 to 80 years of age	24
Married men from 19 to 80 years of age	76
Boys 19 years of age or under	61
Men 80 years of age and above	2
Females unmarried, 19 to 80 years of age	22
Females married, 19 to 80 years of age	75
Girls 19 years of age or under	62
Women 80 years of age and above	3
Widowed	23
Total	348

Males	173
Females	175
	348

Number of Voters	97
Number of Families (average size 4.14)	84
Number of Dwelling-Houses	76
Farmers	69
Farm Laborers	38
House Wives	73
Paupers	1

## PRODUCTIONS.

Butter (sale and use), 7,796 lbs. value	\$ 2,207.00
Milk, 249, 974 gals. value	28,624.00
Cream, 233 gals. value	188.00
Canned fruit (use) 4, 677 lbs. value	493.00
Eggs, 12,203 doz. value	2,950.00
Poultry dressed, 2,680 lbs. value	470.00
Firewood (sale and use) 563 1-2 cords, value	1,837.00
Lumber, 269 M ft. value	2,577.00
Indian Corn, 2,815 bu. value	1,725.00
Fruits, Berries, Nuts, total value	6,468.00
Hay, Straw, and Fodder, total value	24,651.00
Beef, Pork and Veal, total value	3,919.00
Vegetables, total value	6,695.00
All other products	9,545.00
Total	\$92,349.00

## TEMPERANCE.

Boxborough is decidedly a temperance town, having voted "No License" ever since the Local Option Law has been in force.

## TOWN FARM.

Sixty years ago or more, the town bought the small place where Mr. Edward Wetherbee now lives, for the use of its poor, Mr. Abel Davis and wife, an aged couple who were able to perform the daily work of the farm and household, but were deficient in this world's goods. They remained here several years until the death of Mr. Davis, who accidentally fell from an apple-tree and was found with his neck broken. The town soon disposed of the farm, and since that time the indigent ones have been cared for in private families, wherever it could be done the most reasonably, the town paying the expense.



## CHAPTER VIII.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

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BIGELOW FAMILY — BLANCHARD FAMILY — JAMES S. BRAMAN  
— CHARLES H. BURROUGHS — CHESTER FAMILY.

IN this age, when not only the history of towns, but family history, is of such wide-spread and enduring interest, a short sketch of some of the older residents may not be out of place. We notice, in the early records of the town, the names of Cobleigh, Wetherbee, Taylor, Mead, Whitcomb, Hayward, Blanchard, Hager, Stevens, Chester, Wood, Patch and Hoar, whose descendants are still with us; while others, as Bigelow, Hazzard, Stone and Conant, although none of these now remain, are of equal interest.

#### THE BIGELOW FAMILY.

[From Genealogy of the Bigelow Family.]

Lyman Bigelow of Boxborough, Mass., son of Gershom and Mary (Howe) Bigelow, was born in Marlborough, April 25, 1795; married, April 15, 1819, Jane Brigham, daughter of Jedediah and Lydia (Boyd) Brigham, born in Marlborough, April 23, 1798.

They moved to Boxborough, where he engaged in the mercantile business and quickly became a leading citizen in town; was selectman for many years, represented the town in the General Court and served in many other town offices; was postmaster for a long time, and died in Boxborough, March 13, 1842. His widow survived him over forty years, and died in Norwood, Mass., January 26, 1886.

Their children were: Jane E., born Feb. 5, 1820; died at Norwood, Mass., Feb. 13, 1888; married twice, first to James Brown, second to Hon. Jos. Day.

Mary Louise, born Dec. 15, 1821; died at Norwood, Mass., March 29, 1888; married Rev. Josiah W. Talbot.

Augusta B., born Sept. 10, 1823; died, Sept. 1, 1852; married George B. Talbot.

Caroline, born Oct. 29, 1825; died, Jan. 29, 1851; married Cephas Hoar.

Lyman Waldo, born March 7, 1828; died Dec. 6, 1886; married Catherine B. Howard.

Lindolf Willis, born August 16, 1836; died Sept. 7, 1856.

Lyman Waldo Bigelow obtained his education in the district schools of Boxborough and at the Lawrence Academy in Groton; at the completion of his studies he engaged in business in his native town. In the spring of 1853, he removed to So. Dedham (now Norwood) and engaged in the business of a general country store. By sound business principles and the most unswerving honesty and integrity he built up a large and prosperous business, which at the present time is carried on by his two oldest sons.

In 1872, when that part of Dedham was set off and incorporated as the town of Norwood, he was chosen its first treasurer, which office he held up to the time of his death, Dec. 6, 1886. He was deeply interested in the welfare of the Universalist Church of which he was a member. The cause of temperance, as well as all other movements tending to improve and help society, found in him a staunch and willing supporter, both by his influence and means. He was thoroughly conscientious in all of his acts, which, together with his strict integrity and courteous manners, gained for him the highest respect from all classes in the community where he so long resided.

#### THE BLANCHARD FAMILY.

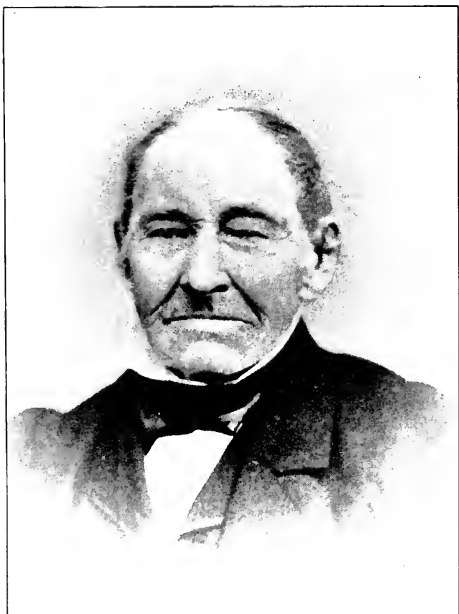
Thomas Blanchard, and his son George, born 1616, came from near Andover, England, in the year 1639, on the ship "Jonathan," and settled in Charlestown, (now Malden) Mass.



L. WALDO BIGELOW.







SIMON BLANCHARD.

Joseph, son of George Blanchard, born 1654, married Hannah Shepard. Joseph, son of Joseph and Hannah (Shepard) Blanchard, born May 7, 1686, married Elizabeth Whittemore and in 1717, or 1718, moved from Charlestown "through the Indian paths" to Littleton, — that part of Littleton which is now Boxborough, — and settled on the place now occupied by Albert Littlefield. They had two children, Jemima, born Dec. 21, 1721, and Simon, born Oct. 6, 1728. Jemima was unmarried and died in 1790, aged sixty-nine years. Simon married Sarah ———, and they were the parents of four children, among whom were Calvin, born Feb. 27, 1754, and Luther, born June 4, 1756, the brothers whose names have become familiar to us through their participation in the fight at the old North Bridge, Concord, in 1775. Calvin married Abigail Reed of Westford. The foregoing information with regard to this branch of the early Blanchards was obtained from Mr. George D. Blanchard, of Malden, Mass., who has been engaged for several years in collecting genealogical records of the Blanchard family.

Calvin and Abigail (Reed) Blanchard were the parents of nine children, Abigail, Calvin, Luther, Simon, Jemima, who died in infancy, Joseph, Lucy, John and Susannah. Abigail married Reuben Hartwell, of Shirley; Calvin married (1) Hannah Hoar, (2) Nancy Warren, both of Littleton. Calvin and Hannah (Hoar) Blanchard had five children of whom two died in infancy. Jemima, their oldest child, married Mr. Parker, the father of James A. Parker of Littleton. Luther Blanchard (1782-1861) was unmarried and resided with his brother John at the old homestead until his death at the age of seventy-eight.

#### SIMON BLANCHARD.

Simon Blanchard, the third son of Calvin and Abigail (Reed) Blanchard, was born in Boxborough, Apr. 3, 1784. His father having been killed by a falling tree when Simon was only fifteen years of age, and the eldest son Calvin — as was the custom in those days in our own land, and as it is still

in Europe, — having taken possession of the ancestral homestead and most of the property, Simon was thenceforth thrown upon his own resources. He first went to Littleton, where he learned the cooper's trade of Joseph Fletcher, grandfather of Mrs. Geo. W. Sanderson, who lived at that time on what is now the Tenney place at the centre. He remained there working at his trade for seven years, until his marriage to Martha Shattuck (1788-1812) who was a descendant of Rev. Benj. Shattuck, the first minister of Littleton. They were married in the house now occupied by Mr. G. W. Sanderson, in the same room where a grandson, Arthur F. Blanchard, and Miss Charlotte T. Sanderson were united in marriage, Jan. 28, 1891. Returning to Boxborough, Mr. Blanchard settled upon the farm where his grandson, Herbert Blanchard, now lives. Here he continued to work at his trade while carrying on a small farm. Early going into hop-raising, a business then in its infancy but soon after extensively engaged in by many farmers and towns, he continued in the business until the total amount of his yearly productions in that line exceeded that of any hop-grower in New England. Every farmer in town cultivated them, and Boxborough was probably at that time the largest hop-growing town of its size in New England. In the meantime Mr. Blanchard had worked into dairying and fruit-raising to some extent, being prospered in whatever direction he lent his energies. He was a successful farmer, having by his industry and perseverance accumulated a property of some \$70,000 at a time when a man would be as rich with \$5,000 as he would today with \$20,000. He added to his farm from time to time until it extended over four hundred acres and into Acton, perhaps the largest farm in the county. He erected the present buildings in 1833.

Simon Blanchard and Martha Shattuck, his wife, were the parents of two children, Simon and Martha.

#### SIMON BLANCHARD.

Simon Blanchard, son of Simon and Martha, was born in Boxborough, Jan. 29, 1808. Apr. 23, 1839, he married Eliz-





*Simon Blarcherel*



abeth Dix Fletcher, daughter of Jonathan Fletcher, and their three children are as follows: William, born Apr. 3, 1840, married Nettie M. Stacy, of Stoddard, who, after his death, Feb. 15, 1877, with her two children, Arthur W., and Gracie M., returned to her former home: Ellen Ann, born Sept. 13, 1851, married Calvin N. Holbrook, Jan. 1, 1873,—they buried one little girl in childhood and with their three boys reside in Littleton:—Elizabeth Fletcher, born Oct. 31, 1856, married Amasa Knowlton of Acton, and they, with their three children, reside in that place. Simon Blanchard, Apr. 15, 1877, married Susan Wheeler, daughter of Abner Wheeler, for his second wife.

Mr. Blanchard resides in the northwest part of the town of Acton, on the road from West Acton to Littleton, in a pleasant, substantial farm-house, where he has lived for more than half a century. For the past few years the infirmities of age have somewhat gained upon him, but he is still interested, as was ever his wont, in all that concerns the town, state, or national welfare. He never sought public positions, but has pressed forward in the footsteps of his father, and by steady industry and persevering labor throughout his early and later days has acquired for himself a competence. Though deprived of the privilege of going out among his relatives and friends as freely as in former years, he yet enjoys their company, and the hearty handclasp, genial smile and pleasant word await all who call upon him for a friendly chat.

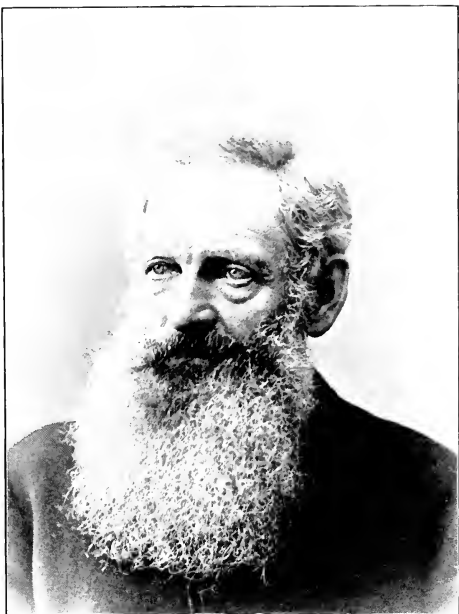
Martha Blanchard (1810-1891) married Samuel Sawin of Stow, Apr. 3, 1834, and of their five children, one died in infancy; Samuel Dexter, married Caroline Elizabeth Simons, and their only child, Charles Dexter, is a physician of note in Charlestown; John Travis, married Sarah Whitney Sawyer, of Bolton, and they had four children of whom two are living; Martha Maria, married Marcus Morton Raymond, of Boxborough, and of their three daughters, one, Nellie Morton, died young, and the other two, Carrie,—married Alonzo B. Cushing, June 18, 1890,—and Ella, reside in Somerville, the present residence of their father, and the place where

their mother died: Simon Blanchard Sawin died at the age of twenty-seven.

Samuel Sawin, the father, died Mar.15, 1875, and is buried in Stow, where a few months ago his widow was also laid. Samuel Dexter died in Boston in 1890.

October 27, 1814, Simon Blanchard, the elder, married Mary Keyes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah (Boyden) Keyes, of Westford, and sister of Hon. John Keyes of Concord, for his second wife. Before her marriage, while a resident of her father's home, she wove cotton cloth for some years for the Pawtucket Falls (now Lowell) factories, the yarn being sent her for that purpose. She also hatched, spun and wove flax for home use. She kept her spinning-wheel and loom, and after her marriage, spun and wove both cotton and woolen cloth for her large family. The flax and wool were raised upon the farm, and all of the work was done by hand. She also wove woolen blankets, towelling, and a better quality of frocking than could be bought at the dry-goods counter. She was a busy worker, and spun and wove a great deal, especially winters, making a business of it, and often kept her place at the loom long after the rest of the family had retired. She used her spinning-wheel as long as she lived, but gave up weaving sometime previous to her death. The dairy business also kept the housewife busy, and Mrs. Blanchard often made one hundred pounds of butter a week, and always a large amount.

Simon and Mary (Keyes) Blanchard, were the parents of nine children, Calvin, who died when five years of age, Joseph K., Sarah, Mary Ann, Luke, Elizabeth, Caroline, John, and one little girl who died when two weeks old. Joseph K., (1815-1888) married Mary Culver, of Boston, Apr. 7, 1840, and they had eight children: Mary Eliza, Phoebe Ann, and Joseph Hermon, who died in childhood, Emily Frances, Caroline Augusta, Calvin Herbert, and Willard and Warren, twins. Emily Frances married Ephraim Raymond and resides in Somerville. They have buried one child and have six living. The two oldest children are married. Augusta Raymond married William H. Furbush, and they, with their four



Leonard Chandler



children, Joseph, Edith, Ralph and Gertrude, are settled on the old Phineas Wetherbee place. The next daughter, Hattie, married Ernest Bezanson, and resides in Charlestown. Caroline Augusta Blanchard married Richard Y. Nelson, and resides in town. They have buried one little daughter, Alice, and have three children living, Mary, Amy and Arthur. Calvin Herbert married Sarah Lauder, and is settled on the old place where his father and grandfather lived before him. They have buried one child and have four living, Hermon, Carl, Clayton and Fanny. Willard Blanchard married Jennie Furbush of Maine, and they had three children, of whom one died in infancy. Mr. Blanchard died about ten years ago, and Jennie, his wife, about four years ago. Warren Blanchard married Nellie Webber, and of their five children only three are living. They reside in Southborough. Joseph K. Blanchard has been interested in both the church and the town. He served as Superintending School Committee, selectman, assessor and auditor for several years, and was an earnest and efficient member of the Congregational church for over fifty years. He died in 1888, aged seventy-three. His wife Mary (Culver) Blanchard died about ten years ago.

Sarah Blanchard, born Apr. 10, 1820, married Leonard Chandler, of Princeton, Oct. 12, 1842.

### LEONARD CHANDLER.

He was a descendant of William (born in 1598) and Annie Chandler, who came to Roxbury, Mass. in 1637. William, son of William and Annie, married Bridget Hinehman and lived in Andover, Mass. Joseph, son of William and Bridget, married Mehitable Russell of Andover. John, son of Joseph and Mehitable, married Hannah Phelps of Andover. John, son of John and Hannah, born July 18, 1750, married Katy Holman of Lancaster, afterwards Mary Jackson, of Westminster. Ephraim, born June 9, 1783, son of John and Mary, (Jackson), married Mary Powers. Leonard, son of Ephraim and Mary (Powers), born Mar. 3, 1817, married Sarah Blanchard as above.

Leonard and Sarah (Blanchard) Chandler, were the parents of six children: Sarah Frances, born Sept. 20, 1843, married Henry Hobbs of Princeton; Ella Jane, born Nov. 21, 1846, resides in Cambridge; Martha Caroline, born June 7, 1849, died Apr. 9, 1865. Leonard Blanchard, born Aug. 29, 1851, married Hattie Stewart, and they, with their three children, reside in Somerville; John, born Apr. 16, 1853, is unmarried and remains on the home farm; Willard Smith, born Jan. 16, 1862, died Apr. 13, 1865. The children were all born in Princeton, and Martha C. and Willard S. died there.

Leonard Chandler was born and lived until twenty-one years of age on the farm where his father and grandfather lived and died. On coming of age, he went to East Princeton and learned the chair trade, at which he worked until his marriage. He then bought the farm which he owned at the time of his death, adjoining the old Chandler place where he was born. When he bought the farm, there were no fruit trees and he could keep but two cows and a horse. At the time of his death he had from fifty-five to sixty head of cattle, and fruits of all kinds were produced abundantly. It is one of the best farms in Princeton at the present time.

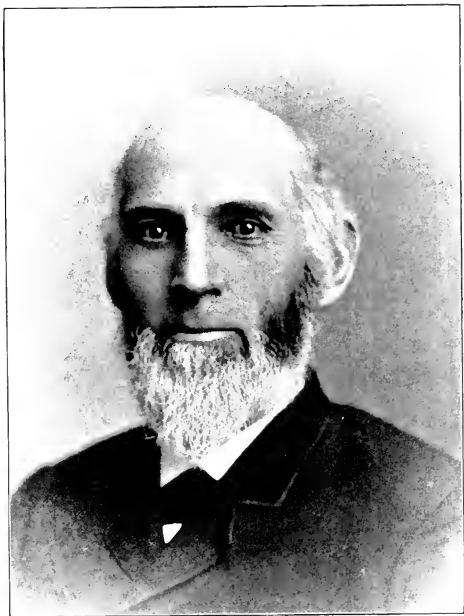
Mr. Chandler was always a resident of Princeton with the exception of years 1857 and '58 when he lived in Boxborough. He served his town as one of the overseers of the poor for a great many years, was one of the assessors, and filled other town offices. He was postmaster for four years.

Mary Ann Blanchard, born July 27, 1822, married James Fisher Sawin, Nov. 28, 1844, and lives in Natick. Only four of their eight children are living: Simon Blanchard, Phares N., Martha and Lizzie Ida. Simon Blanchard Sawin married Alice Leland of Sherburne, and they have four children. Phares, Martha and Ida, remain at home.

#### LUKE BLANCHARD.

Luke Blanchard, third son of Simon and Mary (Keyes) Blanchard was born in Boxborough, Jan. 17, 1826. Simon Blanchard, the father, taught his children how to work, and





*Luke Blanchard*



this son was no exception to the rule. After he was seven years of age, he attended school only in the winter, being out two weeks of the short term of ten or twelve weeks annually for the purpose of driving the ox-team which drew the hop poles for the next seasons use. His only holidays were fourth of July and one half day at election. There were many things which even a child could do on a farm, such as riding horse, driving oxen, stripping and shaving hop poles, working in the hay-field, loading hay, etc., and carrying the hop pickers back and forth, many of whom came from Westford. Mrs. Cynthia (Reed) Sargent, a niece of Abigail (Reed) Blanchard, who now lives in the finest residence in Graniteville, was one of those same hop pickers, and Mr. Blanchard often carried her to and from her home in Westford. Notwithstanding the work, the boys and girls had merry times in those old hop-picking days. The large charcoal kilns, for drying the hops, were tended at night by one or two of the men, and here the young folks would gather in the evenings for the purpose of roasting corn,—common field corn as sweet corn was then unknown,—and enjoying themselves after their day's work; retiring at the evening's close, the girls to the house, the boys to the barn, for so they were accommodated, to prepare themselves by needed rest for the coming day's labor.

When eleven years of age, during the fall season, he began driving an ox team to Boston, loaded with heavy farm products, cider, hay, hops, potatoes etc., while his brother Joseph, with a one horse wagon, teamed butter, cheese and eggs to the same market. The elder brother disposed of the younger brother's load, but Luke was left behind at West Acton, and did not see Joseph again until he arrived in the city. He walked every step of the way making inquiry when necessary as to the route. One of his experiences clearly shows that it was no easy work for an eleven year old boy. One day as he was returning from his Boston trip, he was overtaken by a cold northeast storm. It began raining at noon, and he drove his team through the storm until midnight. He was thinly clad as was the custom with the farmer lads, and was completely chilled

through, long before arriving at West Acton. Here he obtained an extra wrap from relatives, and with this added protection, pushed forward to his father's home. At the age of fifteen the ox team was exchanged for a two-horse wagon, and a year later, his brother Joseph having married, Luke took his place and ran the team for his father until twenty-one years of age, although the heavy produce of the farm was sent on cars after the Fitchburg Railroad went into operation in 1845. When he was twenty, he attended school at Nashua, N. H., one term. After becoming of age, having the commission business learned, but without capital, for his earnings previously had been turned over to his father, he continued the business, — which steadily increased although competition was sharp and lively, — over the railroad.

He is, if not the largest, one of the largest exporters of apples of any single individual in Boston. He commenced shipping among the earliest and has always followed it. He owns a refrigerator at West Littleton and thus has facilities for storage.

Mr. Blanchard is an extensive real estate owner in Middlesex and Worcester counties. He also owns a large tract in New Brunswick, and another in Vermont near Hoosac Tunnel, on the Deerfield river.

Besides these private interests, he is still engaged in the produce and commission business at 20 Faneuil Hall Market, Boston, — which he has leased for the purpose, — under the firm name of L. Blanchard and Co., is interested in the Overall Factory of A. F. Blanchard and Co., at West Acton, and is head of the firm of Blanchard and Chase, engaged in lumbering in N. H.

Mr. Blanchard held the office of constable and collector, assessor and auditor for five or six years in Boxborough, and has served on the school board three, and on the board of overseers six years in Acton. He has remodelled his buildings and worked his lands about West Acton, and so has helped greatly to improve the village. He married Miss Jerusha Vose, Apr. 8, 1858, and they were the parents of four children, Mary

Florence, born Aug. 8, 1859, died when two years and four months of age, Anna Maria, born Oct. 7, 1862, Arthur F., born Jan. 21, 1864, and Mary Alice, born Dec. 21, 1867, died Feb. 2, 1889.

Elizabeth Blanchard married Benjamin S. Hager. For further history of this branch, see Hager family.

Caroline Blanchard married Simeon Wetherbee, of Boxborough, and they have eight children: M. Llewellyn, Allie V., Ellis, Burt L., Mary K., Arthur H., Ella F., and Carrie B. Llewellyn is married and living in Boston; Allie V. married Morton Raymond, of Somerville, and they have one son, John Raymond; Ellis married Annie R. Cowdrie of Boxborough, and they with their three children reside in Harvard; Burt L. is in business in Boston; Mary K., married George M. Whitcomb, of Charlestown, and resides in that place. Arthur. H. married Miss Nellie Mentzer, of Harvard, Sept. 24, 1890, and is settled on the home farm in Boxborough; Ella F. is teaching in Ayer, and Carrie B. remains at home.

John Blanchard married Anna M. Snow, and they are settled in Lawrence, Mass. They have buried one child, and the remaining daughter, Lillian, is at home preparing herself for a teacher.

Simon Blanchard, the father of the foregoing family, was a man of delicate health but good constitution, and by careful living, regular habits, and constant observance of the laws of health, his life and strength were preserved for many years. He was one of the board of assessors at one time, but he was a man who never sought the honors of town office.

Mary (Keyes) Blanchard died Oct. 23, 1863, aged 72 years, and is buried in the Blanchard tomb, — built by Simon Blanchard in 1359, — at Mt. Hope cemetery, West Acton.

In 1864, Simon Blanchard married Mrs. Hannah Preston, of Boxborough, for his third wife. He died July 1, 1867, aged 83 years, and is buried in the family tomb at West Acton.

Joseph, son of Calvin and Abigail (Reed) Blanchard, married Louisa Marshall, of Tewksbury, and settled on the Reed farm where the buildings were recently destroyed by

fire. Their seven children were, Joseph, Marshall, Henderson, Solon, Abby Ann, Mary Louisa and Calvin. Joseph, Henderson and Mary L., are all married and living at the West. Joseph is a physician. Marshall married Charlotte Reed, of West Acton, and died in California. He left one child. Solon is married and living in Weymouth. Abby Ann married Eliab Reed, and died on the Reed farm, leaving one child. Calvin is unmarried, and lives near Weymouth.

Joseph Blanchard, Senior, was given to learning, a teacher and lecturer, and very talented for the times. He was Deputy Inspector of hops, and for a short time raised the most of any farmer in town. He died Mar. 20, 1835, aged 46 years.

Lucy, daughter of Calvin and Abigail, married Amos Day of Shirley.

#### JOHN BLANCHARD.

John Blanchard, youngest son of Calvin and Abigail (Reed) Blanchard, was born on the old farm in Boxborough, Aug. 17, 1794. His father lived there before him, having moved from the Whitney place where he formerly resided; and his mother, left a widow when her son John was but five and one half years of age, made her home there as long as she lived. After her death, Mr. Blanchard took the farm which he carried on as long as he lived. He erected the present buildings in 1844—45. He was a great hop-raiser, having carried on the business for more than half a century, from his eighteenth to his seventieth year. He was also sub-inspector of the product.

He was quite a fruit-raiser, peaches being his specialty. He had a large peach orchard at one time, — the trees of which he budded himself, — and raised and sold many bushels of the delicious fruit.

Mr. Blanchard has acted as road surveyor and once was unanimously chosen selectman, but naturally of a quiet retiring disposition, he declined the office. He took a great interest in the Anti-slavery cause, voting alone in town for several years. He was liberal in giving, especially in his younger days, yet doing it unpretendingly and without ostentation.



*John Blanchard*

*Margaret Blanchard*





He was formerly a member of the Unitarian church in Littleton (Rev. Mr. Foster, Pastor,) of which his mother was also a member until she was seventy-eight years of age, when, her views changing, she united with the Baptist church in Littleton. Mr. John Blanchard subsequently united with the same church, where he helped to erect two buildings — one having been burned — and then with several others removed his connection to West Acton where they helped to build the first Baptist church in that village, Mr. Blanchard superintending the work.

Subsequently, when this building was also burned, he was requested to oversee the erection of the present edifice, but he declined the position.

When forty-five years of age, Apr. 17, 1838, he married Miss Margaret Burbeck, the ceremony being performed in Westford by Rev. Oliver Ayer.

#### MRS. MARGARET BLANCHARD.

Mrs. Margaret (Burbeck) Blanchard was born in Holderness, N. H., in 1813, but at the time of her marriage was living with her brother at Westford. Brought up in the Orthodox church from childhood, she yet favored the views of the Baptists, and refusing to unite with the Congregationalists, upon removing to Westford, became a member of the Baptist church at Chelmsford, afterwards removing her connection to Littleton, and finally, making her church home with her husband at West Acton.

The Blanchard family have in their possession a fine likeness of Henry Burbeck, a great-uncle of Mrs. Blanchard. He is dressed in the style of "ye olden time," ruffled shirt front and high cravat, his regimental coat with wide lapels and broad collar, decorated with epaulets trimmed with heavy gold lace, and buttons, and the thick curling hair gathered into a queue behind.

I quote from Johnson's Universal Cyclopedia: "Henry Burbeck, an American officer, Born in Boston, June 8, 1754. He was a soldier in the Revolution and was appointed Captain

under the Confederation, May 1787. In 1789 he was commissioned a Captain of Artillery, Major in 1791, Lieut. Col. in 1798, and Colonel in 1802.

He served with distinction in the Revolutionary war, that of 1812 with Great Britain, and in frontier service. He was brevetted brigadier-general in 1813, and retired from the army June 1815. He died at New London, Conn. Oct. 2, 1848."

Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard had eight children, Myron, who died in childhood, Abbie, Charles, Clara, Juliette, Lucy A., George and Louisa M. Abbie married Mr. N. E. Whitecomb of Boxborough, and they have two sons, Arthur M. and Waldo E.; Clara is living with an uncle in Salem; Juliette is at home; Lucy A. married Mr. George H. Decosta, and they with their two children reside at West Acton; Charles is married, and settled in Eden, Dakota; George remains on the home farm, and Louisa M. married Mr. Charles A. Dudley and resides in East Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Blanchard commemorated his ninetieth birthday by a celebration at the old homestead, Monday, Aug. 18, 1884. Many relatives and friends took this opportunity of expressing by their presence and congratulations, the affection and esteem in which the worthy couple were held. The picture from which the portrait was engraved was taken at that time. Mr. Blanchard's autograph was written when he was ninety-two years of age. He died July 30, 1889, when within eighteen days of his ninety-fifth birthday, and is interred at Mount Hope cemetery, West Acton. His widow resides with her son at the old homestead.

Susannah, daughter of Calvin and Abigail, married Abner Wheeler of Acton. They had eight children. Mr. Wheeler died young, and his widow afterwards married Pelatiah Brooks, of Acton. They had one child. Mrs. Brooks died in Shirley.

The first Calvin Blanchard was in the whole Revolutionary war. He was at the battle of Bunker Hill on the 17th of June 1775, and was in some other engagements during the war. He was one of those who helped to build the forts on Dorchester Heights, the building of which caused the British troops to leave Boston. He lived to return home and settle on a farm

that is at the present time, and has always been, in the possession of the Blanchards. He was killed by the fall of a tree, Jan. 2, 1800.

#### JAMES STACY BRAMAN.

Benjamin and Charlotte (Crossman) Braman, the grandparents of James Stacy, of Boxborough, were born in Brighton, Mass., and spent their days there. They were the parents of seven children, Benjamin M., William L., Lorenzo H., Elias G., James F., Curtis W. and Charlotte A. James Freeman Braman married Miss Mary E. Stacy, of Concord, a niece of John Stacy, the bookseller and printer. Nathaniel Stacy, of Harvard, was also an uncle of Mrs. Braman. Mr. and Mrs. James F. Braman had six children, William H., George S., James S., Lizzie M., Abbie J. and Lydia A., only three of whom are now living: Abbie J., who married Frederic O. Grout, of Ashland, and with her husband, and son, Frank, resides in that place: Lydia A., the wife of Mr. William Withington, of Boxborough, son of John Withington, of Stow,—they have two daughters, Ellie M. and Eva I.—and James Stacy, who married Fannie E., eldest daughter of George and Mary E. (Abern) Knight, of Ludlow, Mass., and resides on the farm which has been in possession of the Braman family about twenty-three years. The house was built by Simeon Wetherbee, Norman Wetherbee's father. Mr. and Mrs. James S. Braman have six children whose names are as follows: Willie H. and Ada M., twins, George S., Clarence F., J. Waldo and Benjamin E.

Mr. James S. Braman is a farmer, but works also at the carpenter's trade. He was a member of the school board for three years. His father, James Freeman Braman, served the town as selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor, four years. Mrs. Mary E. (Stacy) Braman died Mar. 27, 1858, at the age of forty-one, and was buried in Malden. Mr. Braman married for his second wife, Mrs. R. L. (Lowell) Bingham, of Washington, N. H., who died Aug. 5, 1877, at the age of sixty-five, and is buried in Boxborough. Mr. Braman died

Apr. 25, 1886, aged 71 years, 22 days. His funeral was attended by Boxborough Grange, No. 131, of which organization he was a charter member,—his place seldom being vacant,—and the Grange burial service was used. He lies in the hill cemetery.

#### CHARLES H. BURROUGHS.

Some thirty-five years ago, Charles H. Burroughs, born in Alstead, N. H., Mar. 9, 1832, settled upon the farm which he now occupies in the southeast part of the town. He received the estate from his father, Zabine Curtis Burroughs (1800-1885), who had occupied it before him. Samuel Burroughs, born Mar. 25, 1843, a brother of Charles H., served in the late Civil War four years, but though in several battles, that of Winchester among them, he was never wounded. He is now living at West Acton. An uncle of these brothers, Samuel Burroughs, has three sons, Samuel, Edward and Walter, who are noted physicians in the state of Illinois. The second son, Edward, is a very skilful surgeon.

May 21, 1857, Charles H. Burroughs married Miss Mary E. Brown, daughter of Hermon and Sophronia Brown, of New Ipswich, N. H. May 22, 1882, they celebrated their silver wedding. The marriage anniversary was also the anniversary of their daughter Lizzie's death. Mrs. Brown has made her home with her daughter, Mrs. Burroughs, for the past sixteen years, since her husband's death, and although ninety years of age, seems to be in excellent health, for one so advanced in years, at the present time. We quote from the "*Vermont Phoenix*,"—of which paper Mr. Addison Brown was editor for a great many years,—an article published in 1867 regarding a reunion of the Brown family, at New Ipswich. "Just before the Revolutionary war broke out, two brothers, John and Josiah Brown, then young men, removed with their families from Concord, Mass., to New Ipswich, N. H., and settled near each other on new land situated on a high elevation called, 'Flat Mountain.' They carried with them, strength, energy, patriotism, and a strong religious faith. Here in this new

country they felled the trees, cleared up the forests, and in due time made for themselves and families, comfortable homes. They both reared large families of children, who in their turn married and had large families, whose numerous descendants are now scattered far and wide throughout the land. John and Josiah traced their lineage back to John Brown, who came over to this country a few years after his brother Peter, of the May Flower, and settled in Duxbury Mass. Old John Brown, the martyr, whose soul is passing on, was probably a descendant of Peter, of the May Flower. Josiah Brown married Sarah Wright, and they raised a family of twelve children, who lived to adult age, married and reared large families, several of whom settled in Whitingham in this county. It is somewhat singular that the birth of these twelve children followed each other in the following order,—three sons and a daughter, three sons and a daughter, three sons and a daughter. Two of each of the families of John and Josiah intermarried. Reuben, son of John, married his cousin Sarah, daughter of Josiah; and Aaron, son of Josiah, married his cousin Hannah, daughter of John. The last couple lived with the parents of Hannah, took care of them during their declining years, and resided on the same farm during their own life-time. They had six children, one, a daughter, was killed by the kick of a horse, when about eight years of age; the next, a son, died in infancy; the fifth, a daughter, was married to W. C. Billings, of Northfield, Mass., and died in 1836. Three sons are still living, Addison, of Brattleboro, Hermon, of Boxborough, Mass., and John S., of Lawrence, Kansas. Last week, these three brothers with their wives, Mrs. Eliza J. Page, wife of Wm. M. Page, St. Louis, Mo., an adopted daughter of Aaron and Hannah Brown, and Charles Burroughs and wife, daughter of Hermon, with two young children, met at New Ipswich, visited the graves of their ancestors and relatives that had gone to the better land, and went to take a view of the old farm on Flat Mountain, where the three sons were born and passed their early years. There they had a picnic on a high rocky ridge, and called to mind days and events gone

by. They were accompanied on this excursion by an old friend, Benjamin Davis, aged 86 years, who entered into the spirit of the occasion with the enthusiasm of a young man, walking up steep places and over rough rocks, with a firm, quick step. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Davis received and entertained the party at their house, where everything was done for the comfort and enjoyment of the guests. The entertainment was planned and directed by Mrs. Page, to whom much credit is due for the very pleasant gathering of friends and relatives. One evening there was a large tea-party of neighbors and friends who came in to greet and welcome those who had come from a distance to this family gathering. Here were the extremes of age met together. The oldest was Joseph Davis, brother of Benjamin, who lacks but about four months of 90 years of age, and is yet bright and active, showing still, evidences of former vigor and energy. The youngest was George W. Burroughs. Josiah Brown, mentioned above, was a man of great strength and power of endurance. He took part in the Revolutionary struggle, fought at the battle of Bunker Hill, where he was Lieutenant under Capt. Towne, of a volunteer company from New Ipswich, and when more than four-score years of age, at the mention of Bunker Hill, he would brighten up with new life, and describe incidents of the battle as vividly as though it had just taken place. It was a great pleasure and gratification to be present at this family gathering, to see friends who had been long separated, to talk over the past, and to thank God together for his innumerable blessings." Mrs. Burroughs has in her possession an old family Bible containing the ancestral records as far back as 1743. Dr. Samuel Prescott who was associated with Paul Revere in his famous "midnight ride," was a great-uncle of Mrs. Burroughs' mother. He was born Aug. 19, 1751. Wm. Prescott, M. D., says of him in his "Prescott Memorial," "On his return from Lexington, in the night preceding the 19th of April, 1775,— where he had spent the evening in paying his addresses to the daughter of a Mr. Mulliken, he soon overtook Paul Revere and Mr. Dawes on their way to Concord. When

the three had arrived near Hartwell's tavern in the lower bounds of Lincoln, they were attacked by four British soldiers of a scouting party sent out the preceding evening. Revere and Dawes were taken prisoners. Prescott was also attacked, and had the reins of his horse's bridle cut, but he succeeded in making his escape by jumping his horse over the wall; and taking a circuitous way through Lincoln, he pushed on with the utmost speed to Concord, and gave the alarm of the approach of the British. He was subsequently taken prisoner on board of a privateer, and carried into Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he died in prison." William H. Prescott, the historian, is also connected with this family. The name Prescott is taken from two words meaning priest and cottage. John Prescott, the first one of the family who came to this country, settled in what is now Lancaster, and the town was named in his honor from Lancastershire Co., England, from which he came. He was a powerful, athletic man, brave and energetic, and followed the occupation of a blacksmith. He brought with him to this country, a coat of mail, armor and habiliments all complete, and it is therefore supposed that some of his people might have been warriors. This armor was of great service to him in his dealings with the Indians, whose superstitious fears were easily excited by means of its wonderful impenetrability. On one occasion, having many times, in astonishment and terror, seen their bullets glance from his armor without any apparent injury to himself, they drew near and asked him with regard to it. Mr. Prescott showed the armor to the chief, and at his desire, placed the helmet upon the Indian's head. It did not seem to fit the Indian cranium as well as it did the Saxon, for it is recorded that it slipped down nearly to the chief's ears, and in one place scraped off the skin. An interesting anecdote is related of Jonas, the son of John Prescott. He had sought and obtained the affections of a beautiful girl whose name was Mary Loker. But the lady's parents, who were in high social position, looked down on the blacksmith's son, and decided that their daughter must marry a certain lawyer who had shown her some attention, but whose suit she in no wise

favored. The son of the blacksmith was forbidden the house, but, encouraged by the fair Mary, he came against her parents' wishes. Then her window was grated, and whenever her forbidden suitor called, she was locked into her room. Young Prescott continued his suit, but paid his addresses to his fair one under her window. Learning of this state of affairs, the parents sent the girl secretly to Chocksett,—now Sterling,—for a prolonged stay with friends. The young man sought unsuccessfully for his affianced for a time, but finally he happened upon the town where she was visiting. Falling in with some young men with whom he was acquainted, he asked them if there were any pretty girls in town. Without immediately satisfying his curiosity, they told him that there was to be a quilting party that evening in the village, and gave him an invitation to be present and decide for himself. He went, found his lady among the fair ones gathered there, managed to become her partner in a dance at the close of the evening, arranged a plan for future meetings, and continued his attentions as before. Her parents were soon apprised of the new state of affairs, and recalling her home, told her peremptorily that she must marry the lawyer, or, if she still persisted in the way she had chosen, they would cut her off without a penny. This did not shake the resolves of the lovers, but hastened their marriage. They had no property, and when Mary began house-keeping, she had only a two quart kettle, and half the shell of a pumpkin for a wash tub, as utensils. Yet she lived and prospered, reared a family of twelve children, and died, leaving 175 descendants, at the age of 82 years. Of this beginning sprang all the warriors, doctors, jurors, lawyers, historians and civilians of the Prescott family. Benjamin, the youngest son, was sent Representative to the General Court from Groton, at the age of 27 years, and held this position for seven or eight years in succession.

Humphrey Prescott, of Carlisle, is a brother of Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Burroughs' mother, they two being the only surviving members of the family. Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs have four children living, Minnie L., George W., Charles H. and



Marian E. The great sorrow of their lives was the death from scarlet fever, May 21, 1880, in Fitchburg, where she was attending school, of their second daughter, Lizzie, when only sixteen years of age. Minnie L. is a graduate of the Worcester Normal School, and has been engaged in teaching for several years, most of the time in South Braintree. At present she is teaching in her own home district, No. 4. George W. and Charles H. are at home with their father, and Marian E. is attending school at Ashburnham. Mr. and Mrs. Burroughs are highly esteemed by all who know them. Mrs. Burroughs was a teacher in one of our schools before her marriage, and is quite literary in her tastes.

Apr. 26, 1891, Rev. John S. Brown, a Unitarian minister, son of Josiah Brown, and an uncle of Mrs. Burroughs, who has reached the advanced age of 85 years, walked one mile to church, preached an interesting sermon of forty minutes duration, and then walked back to his home. He is a resident of Lawrence, Kansas.

The house where Mr. Burroughs lives, bears evidence of being one of the oldest in town, and there is quite an interesting history connected with it. We have already referred to the Taylor family who resided here in former days. In Ephraim Taylor's time, it was used as a hotel, and the ancient sign-board was, until very recently, in existence. One portion of the second story of the building,—now divided into chambers,—was, in the days of the hotel, used as a dance hall. The old muster-field was formerly situated near this old homestead, where Mr. A. A. Richardson now cultivates a large corn-field, and Mr. Burroughs, a field of asparagus.

#### THE CHESTER FAMILY.

Phineas Taylor once kept a negro maid-servant on the Burroughs farm, whose descendants are living in town, and own property here at the present time. Mr. Taylor obtained the child when a babe, in Boston, making payment therefor with a box of butter. “Either the child could not have been worth much, or the box of butter must have been very large, as

the best butter was not more than twelve cents a pound in those days," remarked a descendant as the incident was related. But so the story has been handed down from one generation to another, until the present time. Having journeyed to Boston on horseback after his purchase, Mr. Taylor brought her home on a pillion behind him. They named her Cate Taylor, and she served the family thirty years, when she was given her liberty. Mrs. Willis, a grand-daughter of Cate Taylor, has the freedom papers in her possession. The following is a copy :

"Know all men by these Presents that I, Phineas Taylor of Stow, in the County of Middlesex in the Province of the Massachusetts bay in new England, Gentlemen, have given and granted, and by these Presents Confirm unto my negro maid Servant named Cate her freedom from me and my heirs and assigns forever, the above said Cate's freedom is to commence or begin on Tuesday the seventh day of April A. D. 1772, and at the end of the thirtieth year of her age and for the true performance of what is above written, I, the Said Phineas Taylor have hereunto Set to my hand and seal this sixth day of April A. D. 1772, and in the Twelfth year of his majestie's Reign George the third King & C. Signed Sealed and Delivered in Presents of us

Silas Taylor

Ephraim Taylor

Phineas Taylor."

Abigail Brown

Some one has said, "Nothing seemed to prosper on that farm until the maid servant was liberated," yet they were always good to Cate. At the time of the advent of the little stranger babe, there was an infant girl of the family of about the same age, called Dolly, and these two were daily play-mates. The little table at which they ate their supper is also in possession of Mrs. Willis.

Prince Chester and Cate (Taylor) Chester, were the parents of seven children, Ruth, Eunice, Lucy, Mary, Prince James, Paul and Silas, all of whom lived and died in Boxborough. Mr. Taylor gave Cate, for her wedding portion, the farm where the Talbot family formerly resided in the south-western part of

the town, and Prince James Chester, her son, formerly lived on land in the same section now owned by Mr. Peter Whitcomb,—from which he removed to the place now owned by Mrs. Willis. Cate (Taylor) Chester, having returned to her early home to nurse Mr. Taylor in an attack of spotted fever of which he died, contracted the disease and died also, leaving her twin babes, Paul and Silas, but a few months old. Prince James Chester (1781-1863) married Mrs. Irene Cooley, (1785-1861) of Pepperell, and they were the parents of nine children, of whom only three are now living, Mary Ann, born May 17, 1815, James Sydney, born July 30, 1820, and Irene, born June 11, 1822. Mary Ann,—Mrs. Willis, before mentioned,—owns the small farm where her father formerly resided, but is at present settled in Groton. Her adopted daughter, Miss Annie Willis, graduated from Lawrence Academy, two or three years ago, and was recently married. James Sydney Chester married Rachel Payne, and settled near his father's home. Mrs. Chester has been dead a number of years. They have eight children living, of whom one son, Newell, is married and living on the Willis place. They have two daughters. Irene Chester married Alvin Parker, and resides on a portion of the ancient Phineas Wetherbee homestead. Prince James Chester was a respected citizen, both he and his wife having been members of the Congregational church in Boxborough. Mrs. Willis, and also Mrs. Parker, have the well-earned reputation of being very skilful nurses, and are women of decided Christian character.

#### TOWER HAZZARD.

Tower Hazzard, now of Harvard, Mass., is the son of Tower and Lucy (Whitney) Hazzard, formerly of Boxborough, and a great-grand-son of Cate (Taylor) Chester, the maid-servant of Phineas Taylor, who resided on the Burroughs place more than a century ago. Tower Hazzard, Sr., lived in the south part of the town in a dwelling which was subsequently burned. Here three children were born to them: Lucy Elizabeth, who married Henry G. Lewis; Tower, Jr., born Aug. 6, 1820, who

married Catherine Freeman of Gardner, Mass.; and Martha Ann, who married Barzillai Williams.

Tower, and Catherine (Freeman) Hazzard, are settled in Harvard. They have three children, Warren T., Roswell B. and Martha Ann. Warren T. married Lucy Galbreth, of Georgia, and they with their two daughters, Cora and Stella, are living in Barr City, Colorado. Roswell B. married Julia Scott, of Worcester. They have one son. Martha Ann married Allen H. Hazzard, of Woodstock, Vt., and they have four children living, Lucy W., James T., Alva E., and Charles S.

Tower Hazzard, Sr., was a Methodist in religious belief, and was highly esteemed as a Christian man by his brethren in the church. He was very fond of children, and the aged ones among us — the children of *his* day,—hold him in loving remembrance even now, and often recall his kindly words and ways.

His mother, Lucy Chester, (1774-1849) was a woman of more than ordinary physical strength and endurance.

## CHAPTER IX.

THE COBLEIGH FAMILY — FRANCIS CONANT — STUART P.  
DODGE — DRAPER FAMILY — JOHN FLETCHER.

## THE COBLEIGH FAMILY.

JOHN COBLEIGH came from Scotland at an early period, and purchased land here about 1707. He was the ancestor of a large family, whose descendants are still with us in the persons of Ruel T., Daniel W., and Ephraim B. Cobleigh, sons of Daniel, born Aug. 10, 1801, and Hannah (Whitcomb) Cobleigh, born July 18, 1804, and Ephraim, son of John and Caroline (Hayward) Cobleigh. The grand-parents of these were John and Rachael Cobleigh. From the first one of the family who came from Scotland down to Ephraim Cobleigh, one son has always borne the name of John. The little trunk covered with hair and studded with brass nails, in which the first John Cobleigh kept his money, and his sword belonging to the uniform which he wore on state occasions, are in possession of a cousin of Ephraim B. Cobleigh, who received them from his mother at her death three years ago. They had been handed down from one generation to another until she obtained possession of them. Daniel Cobleigh married Ann Perkins of Biddeford, Me., for his second wife. The later years of her life were spent in the family of Mr. Ruel T. Cobleigh, where she died May 6, 1891, aged 80 years, 2 months. Daniel Cobleigh died Aug. 14, 1857. Hannah (Whitcomb) Cobleigh died July 25, 1849. They are buried in the cemetery on the hill.

The old Cobleigh homestead formerly stood opposite Mr. Wright's present residence.

Ruel T. Cobleigh married Elizabeth H. Perkins of Biddeford, Me., Feb. 28, 1856. They had three children, Frank, who died young; John R., who married Sarah Withington, of Princeton, May 9, 1887, and lives on the home-place,—their only child, Olive May, died May 28, 1890, aged 1 year, 10 months, 23 days,—and Mida E., who married Willard Burns, in 1884, and resides in Fitchburg. They have two children living, Frances May, and Lizzie Mabel.

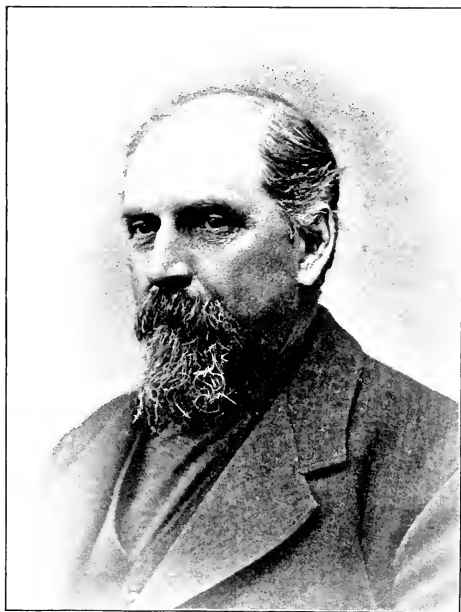
Ruel T. Cobleigh has been active in town affairs, having been selectman, assessor, constable and collector, auditor, highway surveyor, etc., for a number of years.

Daniel W. Cobleigh married Caroline Smith of Charlestown for his first wife, and they had two daughters, Hannah Maria, and Carrie Etta. Hannah Maria Cobleigh married Mr. Chas. H. Veasie and settled in Boxborough. They have four sons, Alfred A., Henry B., Charles Elmar, and Ira. Carrie Etta Cobleigh is teaching in Harvard. She is a fine musician. Daniel W. Cobleigh married Mrs. Antoinette Barnard, daughter of Mr. Varnum Taylor, for his second wife.

Mr. Cobleigh has held the position of town treasurer for the past twenty-eight years, was town clerk for six years, selectman for seven years continuously — eleven years in all — and has been elected to various other town offices.

#### EPHRAIM B. COBLEIGH.

Ephraim Brown Cobleigh, whose parentage has been already given, was born in the old Cobleigh homestead, June 1, 1833. His mother died when he was only sixteen, and left an orphan thus early in life, bereft of the mother's influence and the home care,—to use his own expression in speaking of this period of his life, "One who loses a mother loses everything,"—Feb. 15, '51, he went out from beneath the old ancestral roof-tree to make a way for himself. With some of his young companions, he first went to Bolton, Mass., where he sought and obtained employment in a shoe-shop. Here he remained several months, but the following July, without returning to take leave of the home friends, he directed his



*E. V. B. Cobbleigh*





steps to Charleston, S. C., where he immediately engaged himself at his trade. After a stay of a few months, the roving disposition returned in full force, and he set out once more on a tour westward through the Southern states. Passing through Georgia, Florida, Alabama, up the Cumberland to Nashville, Tennessee; from Tennessee down the Mississippi to New Orleans, he improved his time in studying Southern life as it was presented to him in its various forms in those days of slavery before the war. Leaving New Orleans, he sailed up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers to Cincinnati, Ohio, and thence across the river to Covington, Kentucky. Here, his funds exhausted, and without friends, he enlisted for five years in the regular army, Co. B. 2d Regiment artillery, doing cavalry duty. The Navajo war in New Mexico being in progress at that time, the company was ordered to Fort Defiance. In this forced march of Sept. '52, from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, to Fort Defiance, New Mexico, a distance of 1300 miles, through a country at that time wild and desolate in the extreme, the young volunteer began to experience for the first time the privations incident to the life of a soldier. The raw recruits, unused to such hardship, dropped off continually along the route until over one hundred were left in their lonely graves upon the plains. Sometimes, for three days at a time, the soldiers went without water, until the parched tongues, black and swollen, attested their sufferings. In this wilderness where no white man had ever reared his dwelling, surrounded by the Navajo Indians,—a tribe on a parallel with the Apaches for cunning and treachery,—Mr. Cobleigh, as a soldier, remained for five years, never off duty, but doing duty every day, though often lame and foot-sore: this life being varied by occasional expeditions with scouting parties under the guidance of Mexican Jack and Kit Carson. Mr. Cobleigh gives us the following incident taken from his experience at that time:—

“Many an old soldier of the Regular Army out in that Indian country in my time, endured hardships and encountered danger equal to any of the terrible sufferings of the Civil War,

only of another sort. One adventure of my own has left an impress on my memory that time has not effaced. I take from my diary,—kept through those years, and still preserved,—the following facts: Sept. 15, 1854, a detachment of twenty-five soldiers was made up to go out in search of grazing grounds. My duties as sergeant-major were rather monotonous just then, so I volunteered to go with this detachment. The Navajos about us at that time were supposed to be “friendlies.” After a day’s march, we camped for the night. Next morning, three of us, Myers, Ryan, and myself rode about a mile away from camp to the southward, and came suddenly upon a small band of Indians. They made every motion of friendliness, and when we told them we were in search of grazing grounds, they said, ‘Good water, good grazing a little way round the mountain and we show you the way.’ We started, the Indians first taking the lead, but a few fell behind before we entered the narrow defile, a trail worn in the rocks, with a steep ledge on one side, and a precipice on the other. I began to have fears, but it was impossible to turn about and retreat, so we were forced to go on, and I tried to hide my suspicions of danger. We soon came abruptly into a beautiful valley. These fertile basins are a wonderful natural feature to be found here and there among the most rocky parts of New Mexico and Arizona. The valleys are hemmed in by great sandstone walls, and this particular valley of which I speak, seemingly had no other outlet than the one by which we entered. Here were camped hundreds of Indians, women and children. I said to the boys, ‘We’re in for it.’ We were invited to dismount, our horses were turned loose, and our rifles taken from us. I felt that my time had come as I saw them drive stakes into the ground, and prepare to give us a scorching. Comrade Ryan, having red hair,—the Indians have a supreme affection for red heads, and covet such scalps above all others,—claimed their first attention, and although the savages bound us all to stakes with strips of cedar bark, they proceeded to bestow their closest attention upon poor Ryan who howled at them all sorts of Irish lingo, as the savage horde danced and yelled around

him. It would have looked funny on the stage of a theatre, but on the stage of life it was horrible. Finding that attention was drawn from me, I wriggled my hands from the cedar strips that bound them, unfastened my limbs, and seized my horse which strayed near me, frightened at the tumult. With a bound I was on his back, naked as I was, and speeding out of the valley away over the narrow defile by which we had entered. My horse was accustomed to mountainous travel, but any false step on his part would have sent us rolling down, down, seemingly to the bowels of the earth. I reached my comrades unpursued, but we were too small a band to go to the rescue of Ryan and Myers, and we never saw them again. My escape seems fabulous, and as I wrote it in my diary after we returned to Fort Defiance, I said to myself, "Perhaps I shall live to see old Boxborough again, for I certainly shall not allow myself to be entrapped by another lot of 'friendlies.' "

In 1855, a detachment of soldiers under Col. Pope,—who later had command of the Union army in the Rebellion,—was sent out to survey the Southern Pacific R. R., and his route at that time was nearly identical with the present trend of the road.

At the end of five years, with a longing in his heart for a sight of home and friends in his native town, he obtained his discharge and returned to Boxborough, bringing with him as the only souvenir of his eventful life at that time, a wound obtained in honorable service.

Mr. Cobleigh says: "On the way out to Fort Defiance, scarcely a human habitation was to be seen from Fort Leavenworth to Santa Fe; the Great West at that time was just being opened to civilization; but on my return five years later, the country was full of emigrant trains and squatters, and dwellings were being erected all along the route."

Mr. Cobleigh had long been thought dead by his people, and no one recognized in the stalwart young man of twenty-two, the raw long-legged youth of sixteen, who went away six years before.

July 3, 1858, Mr. Cobleigh married Rosella Wetherbee, who died Jan. 8, 1864, aged 23 years, 6 months, 3 days. She

was a daughter of Capt. Andrew, and Mary (Sargent) Wetherbee. He married Salinda Holden of Shirley, for his second wife. He has no children.

Ephraim B. Cobleigh has served as town-clerk twelve years continuously, fifteen years as selectman, and has filled various positions of trust and responsibility. He has been connected with town business for twenty-nine years.

#### JOHN HOWARD COBLEIGH.

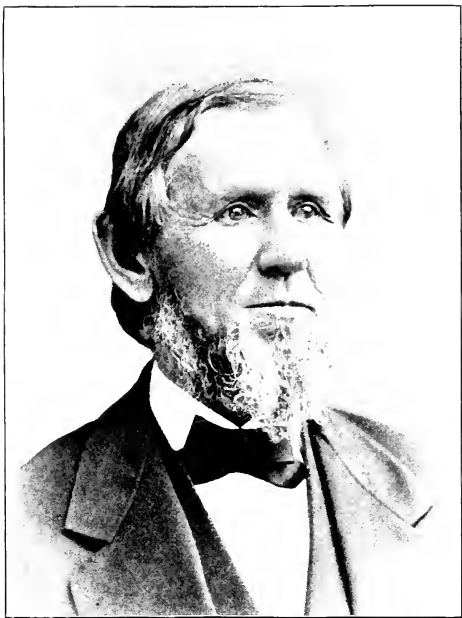
John and Caroline (Hayward) Cobleigh had two sons, Ephraim and Howard. Ephraim married Harriet Whitney, and they have eight children : Charles, Fred, Nelson, Melvin, Ora, Hattie, Alfred, and Herbert.

John Howard Cobleigh, born in Boxborough in 1826, married Lucy Ann Johnson, and resides in Fitchburg. They have two daughters. Mr. Cobleigh is a jobber, and probably the oldest in the business in Fitchburg. He went to that city in 1859, and having purchased a half interest in the firm of Brown and Houghton who were engaged in quite a prosperous jobbing business at that time, he remained in partnership for three years and then purchased the entire interest. He has continued in the business ever since with the exception of a period of two years when he was prevented by illness. Before going to Fitchburg, he had charge of a milk car from West Acton to Boston for nine years. He was some years ago connected with the fire department in Fitchburg, and at one time was first assistant engineer and fireman of the hand fire-engine "Conqueror." This connection was severed about the year 1873. Mr. Cobleigh is one of Fitchburg's well-known and honored citizens.

#### FRANCIS CONANT.

Francis Conant, the eldest child of Benjamin and Sarah (Randall) Conant, was born in Stow, Mass., Nov. 14, 1814. He was of English ancestry, being a descendant of Roger Conant who led the pioneer colony that settled Salem in 1628.

He spent his early years on his father's farm in Stow, and in the district school, which afforded meagre advantages for



*Francis Conant*



education. After becoming of age, he attended a private school in Berlin, Mass., for a short time. In 1841 he married Sophia, daughter of John Goldsmith of Littleton, and having built a cottage in Acton, in the vicinity of his early home, he engaged in farming, the business in which he had been reared. Here five children were born to them, Albert F., Charles H., Nelson B., Julia S. and John G. In the winter of 1848 when only thirty-four years of age, a terrible accident occurred, which, with unskilful surgical treatment, left him with a lameness from which he suffered until the close of his life. In 1850 he removed with his family to Boxborough and settled upon the Wood farm which became his home for a quarter of a century. Here the five younger children, Edwin H., George F., Waldo E., Adelia M., and Lizzie S. were born.

As a citizen of Boxborough, he was active and interested in everything that pertained to the religious, educational, and business welfare of the town. He was elected to many town offices, having served as auditor, on the board of overseers, assessors, and selectmen—at one time as chairman—for a number of years. For several reasons he preferred to attend church in Littleton, and he was a consistent member of the Orthodox Congregational church in that town. By his thrift and enterprise he was able to give each of his ten children, more than a common school education. One son, Charles H., completed a college course, graduating at Dartmouth in 1871.

In 1874, feeling somewhat the infirmities of age, he disposed of his farm and removed to Littleton, and there, four years later, he died at the age of 63 years. His life was one of hardship and suffering, but the character and prosperity of his children were a constant source of satisfaction to him in his declining years. Merchants sought his sons for desks, from which positions they naturally passed to be themselves proprietors. Four sons are merchants, Albert F. and Nelson B. in Littleton, and John G. and Edwin H. in Shirley. Charles H. has been a lawyer in Lowell for many years. George F. is a civil engineer in Columbia, Tenn., in the employ of the U. S. government, and Waldo E. of the firm of Conant,

Houghton and Co., Littleton, is a suspender manufacturer. Of his three daughters, the eldest, Julia S., is unmarried and resides in Bridgeport, Conn.; the second, Adelia M., a teacher since the death of her husband, George A. Parker, is at the present time located also in Bridgeport, Conn., where she is engaged in the Training School for teachers. The youngest daughter, Lizzie S., married Mr. E. B. Parker, of Littleton, and resides in that town.

Sophia G. Conant, the wife and mother, died Mar. 18, 1878, and both parents are laid in the new cemetery at Littleton.

#### STUART PARK DODGE.

Stuart Park Dodge is the son of Silas Parker and Catherine Park (Kendall) Dodge, of Waltham, Mass. Silas Parker is the son of Samuel, born in Ipswich, Mass., Mar. 26, 1766, and Mary (Farnsworth) Dodge, born in Groton, Mass., May 9, 1768. Silas P. was also born in Groton, his mother's native town, Apr. 2, 1812, and resided in that place fifty-eight years, until 1870, when he removed to Waltham. His sight has been failing him for some years, and he is now totally blind. Catherine Kendall, born in Harvard, Nov. 12, 1821, is the daughter of Enoch, born in Shirley, Aug. 7, 1795, and Fanny (Shurtleff) Kendall, born in Montpelier, Vt., Oct. 1800. Silas P. Dodge and Catherine P. Kendall were united in marriage, May 12, 1842. They were the parents of four children, Edwin Parker, who died in 1871, in Denver, Col., where he had gone to regain his health, Stuart P., George F., and Frances A. George F. was formerly a resident of this town, having lived upon the farm now occupied by his brother. Stuart P. was born in Groton,—as were all the other children, on the farm where his father was born, and where he lived for more than half a century,—and spent his early years in that town. He married Miss Sarah J. Farmer, of Harvard, Mass. Aug. 11, 1869.

Mrs. Dodge is the daughter of Deacon Emroy and Sophia (Raymond) Farmer, of Harvard. Mr. Farmer was the son of



Thomas and Hannah Farmer, of Littleton Mass., and was born in that town, Jan. 10, 1816. Jan. 10, 1839, he married Sophia Raymond, daughter of Joseph and Rhoda Raymond, also of Littleton, where she was born, May 13, 1817. They made their home at first in Sterling, Mass., where Sarah J. was born, Nov. 17, 1859, but removed to Harvard a year later, and there Deacon Farmer died, Aug. 12, 1877. He had been a deacon of the Baptist church at Still River for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Farmer were the parents of seven children, Elizabeth B., Warren A., who died in infancy, Nahum H., Luke W., Sarah J. and Almeda P. Elizabeth Bowers, married James Forrest Dadmun, of Harvard, Apr. 28, 1861, and they buried their only child in infancy. Mrs. Dadmun died May 20, 1866. Mrs. Dodge and two sons are the only surviving children. Nahum Harwood, married Miss Ella M. Whittemore, of Worcester, and they, with their two children, Grace Sophia and Walter Emroy, reside in that city, where he is engaged in the shoe business. He served his country three years in the Federal army, enlisting Aug. 14, 1862, in Co. G, 36 Reg't. Mass. Vols., and receiving his discharge June 8, 1865. He took part in twenty-two battles and skirmishes, among them those of Cold Harbor, Spottsylvania, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Bull Run and Vicksburg. Luke W. Farmer married Miss Ella C. Whitney, of Harvard, and removed to Somerville. He was in the employ of Messrs. Adams, Chapman and Co., of Boston, from 1869 to 1883, when he became a member of the firm.

Mrs. Sophia Farmer, who is now seventy-four years of age, makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Dodge. She is a sister of Mrs. Eliza Davis, of Acton Centre, who has entered upon her eighty-fifth year in quite good health for one so advanced in years. These two and a brother, Benjamin Raymond, of Charlestown, are the only representatives of their family now living.

For a time after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dodge lived in Groton, and here they buried their oldest child, while still an infant. Florence C., the oldest daughter, was also born in Groton. Afterwards they removed to Harvard, and during

their residence in that town, a son was born to them, Emroy P., who died Feb. 19, 1885, aged 9 years and 8 months. Mabel L. and Frank W., the remaining children, were born in Boxborough, to which place the family came to reside in Nov. 1876. Their dwelling was erected by Mr. A. W. Wetherbee and his father, Mr. John Wetherbee, in 1866, on a portion of the old Phineas Wetherbee farm, and only a few rods from the ancestral homestead.

Mrs. Dodge is a kind and sympathetic neighbor, and an earnest worker in the church. Mr. Dodge has held the position of auditor, also of moderator at town meetings, and was elected chairman of the School Board of Boxborough in 1887, to which position he has been re-elected for four consecutive years.

#### THE DRAPER FAMILY.

The Draper family dates back more than a hundred years. Their ancestor, Boston Draper, helped to pay for the "old Harvard meeting-house" in 1775, and from time to time the Draper name appears on record in various responsible positions. Reuben Draper built the house where B. S. Mead now lives. He was a very ingenious man. Simon Whitney Draper built the house which J. F. Hayward now occupies.

Mr. David Veasie, of Boxborough, married Mrs. Tryphena Draper, who is connected with this family. Mr. Veasie was a native of N. H., but came from Boston to this town when a young man, to search for employment. He worked at farming several years, and then married Mrs. Draper, who was a Worster, and a cousin of her first husband. Mr. and Mrs. Veasie were the parents of four children: D. Bontwell, Granville, Sarah J. and Charles H. Boutwell Veasie married Nellie Berry, and is a resident of Port Townsend, Washington. He graduated at a college in Ohio; afterward studied law, and was admitted to the bar, but never practised the profession. He is engaged at the present time in the store of the Nolton and Adams Hardware Co., Port Townsend, Washington. Granville married Miss Cornelia A. Hayward, of Boxborough,



*John Fletcher*



and they are settled in Elgin, Illinois. Sarah J. married Eugene Berry, and resides in Peabody, Mass. They have no children of their own, but have an adopted son and daughter, Thomas and Belle. Charles H. married Hannah Maria Colleigh, and settled in town. (See Colleigh Family.) He has filled the positions of school committee, selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor, for several years.

Mr. David Veasie owned a small farm, but followed the occupation of a carpenter. He died Jan. 2, 1886, aged 72 years, 10 months, and is buried in the lower cemetery.

His widow resides upon the Cephas Hartwell place, which was their home for many years.

### JOHN FLETCHER.

I am indebted to one of the Fletcher family for the following sketch.

John Fletcher, son of Peter Fletcher and Lucy Wood, of Littleton, who settled in Phillipston, Mass., was born July 11, 1800. He married Feb. 28, 1831, Hulda T. Fletcher, daughter of Eleazer Fletcher, a resident of Boxborough, and a soldier of the Revolution. Her sister, Rhoda F., married Stedman Hartwell, of Natick, brother of Squire Cephas Hartwell, who was a respected citizen of Boxborough, and held office in that town as superintending school committee, selectman, assessor, treasurer, and town clerk, for seventeen years. Stedman Hartwell had two daughters, Almeda and Martha, and two sons who became generals in the War of the Rebellion, Alfred and Charles. After the close of the war, Alfred became Assistant Consul at Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, and also practised law there for a time. Charles entered the regular U. S. army and died in the service, from disease contracted therein. Almeda became the wife of E. Dix Fletcher, of Lowell, Mass. She was a fine teacher, having taught in Woburn for many years. She had charge at one time of No. 4. school in Boxborough. Martha, who has been as a mother to her sister and brothers, resides on the home place in Natick.

Edmund Fletcher, brother of Hulda T., married Lucy, sister of John Fletcher, who resided for several years in Boxborough. Their sons now live in Lowell. E. Dix has been a prominent merchant in that city for over forty years, and has been a member of the City Council. Isaac A., born in Boxborough, was City Assessor for some years. He is in the mercantile business. Maria Fletcher, sister of Hulda, married Samuel Wetherbee, a resident of Boxborough.

E. Dix Fletcher married Mary A. Lovejoy, of N. H., for his first wife, and they have one daughter, Mary E. Isaac A., married Mary E. Rand, of Barnstead, N. H., and they have one daughter, Anna Dix.

Eleazer Fletcher, brother of Hulda, married Rebecca Kimball of Littleton, who is now living, in her ninety-first year, with her daughter, Mrs. Peter Whitecomb, of Littleton.

John Fletcher's wife, Hulda, died June 3, 1838, leaving one daughter, Hulda A., who died in 1844. July. 4, 1839, he married Matilda Bowker, of Sudbury, whose ancestors came of a patriotic race, having taken part in the war of the Revolution, and that of 1812. The names of their children are as follows: Josephine M., John H., Augustine A., Edwin Dix, who died when three years of age, and Elwin B. Josephine M. was a teacher in the public schools in Boxborough, and adjoining towns, for a dozen years, six years in her home district. Since the death of her parents, she resides in West Acton, where she is active in church work, and social and literary pursuits. John H., who was in the War of the Rebellion, enlisting, Oct. 1861, re-enlisting in 1864, was Corporal in Co. E., 26th Reg't. Mass. Vols. He was killed in battle at Winchester, Va., Sept. 19, 1864. His comrades all speak of him tenderly, as one who was always ready to do his duty as a soldier, and was loved by them for his manly virtues. Augustine A. was also a volunteer in the War of the Rebellion, having been a lieutenant in the 97th U. S. C. Inf. This regiment was stationed in the Gulf Department. He was in several severe skirmishes, where men by his side were shot down, but he escaped uninjured. This regiment did guard duty at the forts, for several months after

the Rebellion was crushed. Since the war he has resided in Georgia, where his father's brother, Dix Fletcher, also lived long before the war. Mr. Dix Fletcher and his son-in-law, Hon. Henry Cole, had property destroyed by the rebels, because of their union sentiments, just before Sherman came over Kennesaw, to Marietta, Ga., on his way to the sea. Mr. Cole was also taken as a prisoner to Charleston, S. C., and was not released for more than six months. During this time his health became impaired, and he lived only a few years. Jan. 10, 1870, Augustine married Margaret S. Boyd, only daughter of Colonel William and Tenie Boyd, of Nashville, Tenn. Their residence is now at Atlanta, Ga. He is actively engaged in the Georgia pine lumber business. They have two daughters, Mary Louisa and Maggie B. Elwyn B. resides at Fort Scott, Kansas, where he is a prominent druggist. Jan. 10, 1877, he married Sarah H. Redding, of Plain View, Minn. At this time he was in his cousin's, Mr. Woodward's, drug store, at Lawrence, Kansas. Miss Redding was an accomplished teacher and elocutionist in one of the Lawrence schools. They have two sons living, John Herbert and Freddie Dix.

Mr. John Fletcher's occupation was farming. His theory was to have a fine dairy and fruit farm, and as he had an energetic, thrifty helpmeet, their dairy products commanded the highest price in the market. He raised calves, colts, and fine porkers, and having rich hill pasturing, it was profitable also to fat oxen; so by wise planning and careful industry, farming was made to pay. His townsmen seemed to appreciate his good judgment and careful forethought, by putting him in town office twelve years as selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor, and, in 1851, paid him a high compliment by sending him as Representative to the General Court. In 1870, his sons being in other business, and John, the one who intended to take the farm, having been killed in the army, Mr. Fletcher, who was now seventy years old, felt that the care was too much for him, and sold his farm, (where J. W. Hayward now resides), though loth to leave the home where he had lived forty years, and moved to Stow, to be near his brother,

Mr. Peter Fletcher, whose companionship was very pleasant to him in his declining years. His wife died in 1871, and his daughter resided with and cared for him until his death in 1881, when she made it her home in West Acton.



## CHAPTER X.

## THE HAGER FAMILY.

IN a volume entitled "Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Mass., including Waltham and Weston," is found the following: "Hagar: In the church records Rev. Mr. Angier wrote the name Agar. Perhaps it will be ascertained that William Hagar, of Watertown, was a son of that William Hagar that was admitted freeman, May 18, 1631. Both names are found in England, and their arms may indicate some early affinity, a lion being their chief characteristic." Mr. Daniel B. Hagar, of the Salem Normal School, who is a great-grandson of Isaac Hagar, of Weston, says: "The two names are probably the same, as they are in the Bible. As the family was among the very earliest settlers of Watertown, it is undoubtedly of English origin. I noticed in London a street named 'Agar.' I do not understand why the different branches of the family should spell the name differently. As a scripture name it is always spelled in one way, so far as the last syllable is concerned." The genealogy in the volume referred to runs thus: William Hagar (Hager), married, Mar. 20, 1644-45, died, Jan. 10, 1683-84. He had ten children. The third one, Samuel, was born Nov. 20, 1647, died, Feb. 13, 1703-1704. His fourth and last child was Isaac, of Weston, who was born April 24, 1701. He married Prudence Allen, July 16, 1724. He had twelve children, the first of whom was Isaac, who was born May 5, 1725. This Isaac had four children, — Phinehas, Elizabeth, Abigail and Zilpah. Phinehas — the ancestor of the Hagers of Boxborough — married Susanna Leadbetter. He died in Weston, August,

1817. He had nine children,—Daniel, Nabby, Phinehas, born July 21, 1788, Charles, Helena, Darius, Maria, George, who died in infancy, and George Otis. Daniel died when about seventeen years of age. Charles lived to manhood, and died at the West, Helena married Mr. Hersey, and Darius married Lucy Wright, and had eight children, of whom four died young, and the youngest daughter, Esther, married a Burnham, and died several years ago. Of three who are living, George is married and resides in California, and Augustus P. and Baron Stowe are both married and settled in Littleton, Mass.

Maria Hager married William Nottage, of Boston. George Otis married Sarah Day, of the same city, and they had five children, of whom only one lived to mature years. He,—George Otis,—was killed in one of the last battles of the War of the Rebellion.

Phinehas Hager and Ruth Stowe, daughter of Manasseh and Mary (Whitcomb) Stowe, of Hillsborough, N. H., were married Nov. 1811, in Harvard, by Rev. Isaac Bonney, Methodist minister. Ruth Stowe was born in Hillsborough, Dec. 8, 1788, and died at West Acton, May 9, 1880, aged ninety-one years and five months. *Zion's Herald*, date Nov. 4, 1880, gives the following:—

“Sister Hagar, when 16 years of age, upon the death of her parents, came to Harvard, Mass., to reside with relatives. Here she became acquainted with the Methodists, and united with the church, to whose doctrines and usages she became strongly attached. At the age of 23 she married Phinehas Hagar, of Weston, a man of deep and ardent piety. Her husband died when she was but 41, leaving her with seven children, the oldest being but 16 years old. She was a woman of strong character, never yielding a point where she considered herself morally right. Her cheerfulness throughout her entire life was very marked. About five years previous to her death, she resided with a son at West Acton; here she was near the church and was a constant attendant, being present morning and afternoon in all weathers. The last five months of her life she was partially paralyzed, but so kindly cared for by her



GEORGE HAGER.



daughter and son, that she was never known to make a complaint; all her wants were anticipated, and she had only to answer with a smile. Thus ended the long life of this Christian woman, and affectionate mother."

Phinehas Hager died Jan. 11, 1830, at the early age of forty-one. He was a member of the Methodist church referred to in the history of the town, and was a class-leader many years. He owned a small farm in the southwest part of Boxborough, but worked at the business of a shoemaker, having learned that trade of Nathan Hagar, of Lincoln. The homestead was burned some years ago, but the estate is still in the hands of George Hager, of West Acton, one of the sons. Phinehas Hager and his wife Ruth (Stowe) Hager, are buried in the cemetery on the hill. They were the parents of seven children,—Solomon, George, Sarah, Phinehas, Mary, Benjamin Stowe and Daniel.

Solomon Hager, born Mar. 28, 1813, married Lucy Ann Fuller, of Vermont, Mar. 14, 1837, and they had three daughters, of whom one died young. Helen R. married George W. Kimball and went to St. Louis, where he was connected with Simmons Hardware Company. Mr. Kimball died very suddenly in 1889, while boarding in Swampscott, Mass. Lucy Ann married John H. White, of Chicago. Mr. Solomon Hager served as superintending school committee in 1839, and was chosen representative from Boxborough, in 1840, and 1841. He died July 3, 1875.

#### GEORGE HAGER.

George Hager, second son of Phinehas and Ruth, was born in Boxborough, Mar. 29, 1815, and resided on the home farm until his father's death in 1830. For four years afterwards he lived with Joel Whitcomb upon the Burroughs farm, and most of the time until his marriage worked in his native town, with the exception of two years, spent in Weston, Mass. Apr. 9, 1850, he married Sally Mead, of Boxborough, and settled in West Acton, where he remained one year. Returning to Boxborough, he occupied the old homestead until about

sixteen years ago, when he again removed to West Acton, and purchased the place where he now resides. He is still in possession of the home farm. Mr. Hager was selectman and assessor of Boxborough for a number of years, and performed the duties of his office with marked ability. Although without offspring of his own, he is very fond of little children, and always has a kind word for them.

Sarah Hager, born Aug. 16, 1817, is unmarried and lives in town.

Phineas Hager, born July 8, 1820, took the name of Phineas A., and went to Oberlin, Ohio, to attend school. He, with a number of others, went out from Oberlin to found Olivet College, Michigan. He married Polly J. Edsell, of Olivet, for his first wife, and they had five children, all of whom died in childhood. His second wife was Mrs. Sabra White, of Otsego, Michigan. He enlisted from Otsego, and entered Company B, Nineteenth Regiment, Michigan Infantry, in August, 1862. He was first sergeant of his company, and acted as captain for quite a long time; was in Libby Prison at one time, but was released on parole. He was killed Aug. 7, 1864, during the siege of Atlanta.

The first Phineas Hagar served throughout the Revolutionary War. He, with others, came up from Weston, crossed the Concord river in a boat, and joined in the fight at Concord Bridge; and he was present at the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Mary Hager, born Nov. 25, 1823, married Benjamin K. Barnard, Oct. 15, 1843, and settled in Harvard. They had five children, of whom three, John, Sarah and Mary, are now living. John married Nellie Green, and lives in Worcester; they have one daughter, Esther; Sarah married William Puffer, buried her husband, and resides at home; Mary married W. J. D'Ewart, and also lives in Worcester. They have two children. The oldest son, Charles, died when about a year old, and the youngest, Charles Wesley, a student at Lawrence Academy, Groton, died when a little more than seventeen.



BENJAMIN S. HAGER.





## BENJAMIN STOWE HAGER.

Benjamin Stowe Hager was born in Boxborough, Feb. 28, 1826. When eight years of age, he went to Harvard for the summer and autumn, and attended school in that town. At twelve years of age he again went to Harvard, and remained there two years with Phinehas Wetherbee. Three years later, at the age of fifteen, he united with the Methodist church, to which allusion has been made in the town history. When seventeen, he worked seven months for Luke Sawyer, of Harvard. In the fall of 1850, he attended school at Wilbraham, and the next year purchased the Ephraim Whitcomb place, where he now resides. Sept. 28, 1852, he married Elizabeth Blanchard, daughter of Simon and Mary (Keyes) Blanchard, of Boxborough.

After the Methodist church was disorganized, Mr. Hager connected himself with the Congregationalists, and all his energies, down to the present time, have been directed toward the work of that church. He was chosen one of its committee even before he became a member of it. He has used his talents as a teacher in the Sabbath school successfully, teaching the youth, the young men, and also adult classes. It was his custom, while his children were about him in the home, to gather them around him Sabbath mornings, and teach them the Sunday-school lesson; and this duty, far from being a burden, was a pleasure to him. Four of his children are members, and his eldest son is a deacon, of the Congregational church.

Mr. Hager was secretary of the old Lyceum at one time, was selectman in 1856, auditor in 1859, and town treasurer 1860-63, a period of four years.

Benjamin Stowe and Elizabeth (Blanchard) Hager were the parents of seven children: Phinehas, who died when eight years of age; Mary E., who resides at home; Simon B., George H., Benjamin O., John M., and Sarah C., who died when a year and a half old. Simon B. Hager married Lucie C. Gilson, of Littleton, and is settled on the Whitman Wetherbee place. They have one son, Milton Blanchard, born August 15, 1888.



THE LEGEND OF THE LIMERICK BELLS.

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Slowly toiled the young Italian,  
In his sunny, native land,  
Many years of patient striving  
Spent he, on that far-off strand.

But, at last, to crown his efforts.  
Sweet-voiced bells before him rose :  
Proud and happy was the artist,—  
All forgotten were his woes.

Near the lovely lake of Como  
Stood a convent, old and grey :  
From its tower high, his chime bells  
Pealed forth sweetly, day by day.

O'er the waters of the Como,  
Morning, noon, or eventide,  
Wafted was th' angelic music  
Through the village far and wide.

There th' Italian sought to rest him  
In his quiet, happy home,  
List'ning ever to the chiming  
Which so dear to him had grown.

But the scourge of war swept round him,  
And its desolating hand  
Left him fortuneless and friendless.  
Homeless — in his native land.

'Mid the strife and wanton ruin,  
Low the convent walls were laid :  
And the bells to which he'd listened,  
Since they by his skill were made.

By the victor's hand were carried  
To some foreign land away :  
Chime of bells no more at morning  
Heard he, or at close of day.

Old, before his time, in sorrow  
Wandered he from place to place.  
But, while growing grey and feeble,  
Of his bells he found no trace.

But the mem'ry of their music  
Left him never, night or day.  
Whether through the crowded city  
Or the forest lay his way ;

All the day he heard their chiming,  
 And when sleep had closed his eyes,  
 Still the tuneful bells were pealing  
 Forth their music to the skies.

Whether on the ocean's billow,  
 'Mid its mighty rush and roar,  
 Or beside the quiet streamlet,  
 Still that music evermore

To the lonely-hearted wand'rer  
 Whispered low of peace and rest,—  
 Of the joys the past had brought him,  
 When his loved ones round him prest.

From beyond the sea, a sailor,  
 All by chance, at last he meets,  
 And of chiming bells so wondrous,  
 He had heard within the streets

Of far Limerick in Ireland,  
 Was the sailor's changeless theme;  
 Lighter-hearted grew the wand'rer,  
*His* bells must the sailor mean.

. . . . .

Up the Shannon, sick and weary,  
 At the closing of the day,  
 Sailed the wand'rer, till the vessel  
 Anchored near to Limerick lay.

Shoreward, then, the boatmen rowed him;  
 'Bove the smoky, mist-robed town,  
 He St. Mary's spire saw, rising  
 Through the shadows settling down.

Angel voices to him calling,  
 Told him that his bells were there;  
 And he prayed, "O, let me hear them  
 Chime forth on the evening air.

"Ring, O bells! once more a welcome,  
 As I near yon wave-washed shore,  
 Once more let me hear your chiming,  
 And my pilgrimage is o'er."

O'er the clear and quiet waters  
 Shone the light from off the shore;  
 Fanned his brow the gentle breezes,  
 As o'er Como's wave once more

Then the music of the chime bells,  
 From St. Mary's turrets high,  
 On the evening air came swelling  
 Forth in sweetest melody.

Once more was the old man happy,  
 As he heard the well-known chime,  
 Home and friends beside the Como  
 Saw he, as in olden time.

Resting on their oars, the boatmen  
 Listened to the chiming sweet,  
 Which to hear was to remember  
 Till the heart should cease to beat.

Then they sought to rouse the stranger,  
 But he lifted not his head;  
 Calmly, sweetly, he was resting,  
 For the wanderer was dead.

#### THE HILLS BEYOND.

Depths of the valley the clouds hover over,  
 Drear is the path where I wander alone;  
 Sadly the north-wind is sighing and sobbing,  
 Sweeps, through the tree-tops, its wearisome moan.

But, over yonder, the far distant hill-tops,  
 Bathed in the sunlight, are beckoning on;  
 "Haste thee, nor stay 'mid the shadows around thee,  
 Rest from thy journey awaits thee anon."

"Leave thou the valley; afar o'er the hillside,  
 Onward and upward, there lieth the way;  
 Shadows and clouds that awhile may enfold thee  
 Soon shall be merged in a glorious day."

Fixed are my eyes on the heights, over yonder,  
 Where nevermore deepening shadows shall lower;  
 Cheered by the view of that fair Land of Beulah  
 Brighter my pathway grows hour after hour.

#### PASSING.

Passing  
 From the gloomy, frozen winter,  
 With its fields all robed in white;  
 From the storm-cloud, dark and lowering,  
 And the tempest's wrathful might;

From a land of ice-locked brooklets,  
 Silent groves and leafless trees,  
 To the merry, joyous springtime,  
 And its warm, life-giving breeze;  
 To a land of murmuring streamlets,  
 Warbling birds and budding flowers,  
 Soft green paths through blooming meadows,  
 And the leafy, woodland bowers.

Passing  
 From the weary toil and striving  
 Of the ever changeeful years,  
 From the waiting and the longing,  
 From the heart-aches and the tears;  
 From the loving and the parting,  
 From the loneliness and woe,  
 From the mounds upon the hillside,  
 Graves of those we cherished so:  
 To a land all lands excelling,  
 Rest and home — no cold to blight,  
 Meeting ne'er to know of parting,  
 And eternal life and light.

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#### THE SHADOWED PATH.

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Across my path, one sunny day,  
 A heavy shadow came;  
 On all before so dark it lay  
 I sought the path in vain;  
 Awhile I thought to turn me back,  
 And seek some broader, beaten track.

But past that gloomy shade I knew  
 There lay a city fair,  
 Whose streets were gold, and pure and true  
 The beings dwelling there.  
 He who that city would not lose,  
 The shadowed way must surely choose.

Again I sought for it with care,  
 While from my heart I cried,  
 "O, lead me to that city fair  
 Upon the other side."  
 Then came there One, who said to me,  
 "I'll be thy guide, I'll go with thee.

“So bright and sunny was thy way,  
 Thou wast forgetting Me.  
 Until I sent the shadow gray  
 To hide the path from thee;  
 I made it o’er thy way to fall  
 To teach thee still on Me to call.”

O, fellow trav’ler! look above  
 Whene’er thy path grows dim;  
 Remember that thy Guide in love  
 Would draw thee nearer Him;  
 And surely, if thou’lt ask His aid,  
 He’ll lead thee safely through the shade.

### THE FOREST RAMBLE.

One golden autumn day we gathered leaves,  
 My little friend and I, from forest trees;  
 So fleet was he, that with my sober pace,  
 I could of my young friend scarce keep a trace:  
 A yellow leaflet here,—a red one there,  
 He spied, and off he bounded light as air:  
 O’er rock and hillock, or perchance a wall,  
 He clambered for the fairest of them all:  
 In forest deep he saw a shrub at last,  
 And quickly forward to the spot he passed:  
 I hastened on, till from a gentle rise,  
 I saw him, hands outstretched to seize the prize.  
 Above his head, in colors dazzling bright,  
 The poison sumach met my startled sight.  
 “’T is poison, child,” I cried, “a moment wait,”  
 But ere I reached the place it was too late;  
 For, lest to pick them I would not allow,  
 He quickly gathered them, bough after bough.  
 So ’t is, I thought, with children older grown,  
 They cannot let forbidden fruit alone:  
 And though the Lord himself should say, “Forbear,”  
 They grasp the dazzling prize as false as fair.

### HERE AND THERE.

A little weeping over glad hopes, perished,  
 A little laying down of work begun,  
 A little giving up of treasures, cherished,  
 A little mourning o’er the task undone,  
 A little bearing of the burdens, resting  
 In Him who ever doeth what is best,  
 A little longer here, the billows breasting,  
 Which else would bear us farther from our rest:

And then, beside the quiet crystal river,  
 'Mid pastures green and fair, shall we repose ;  
 No tears shall dim the eyes, nor sorrow ever  
 Shall enter there, nor aught of human woes ;  
 The Savior's presence makes the whole land glorious,  
 And there, at last, we 'll see Him face to face,  
 When, over all these earthly things victorious,  
 We enter in to Heaven, our dwelling-place.

---

TRUST.

---

Does thy path seem to thee dreary ?  
 Look above ;  
 Lift thy heart in prayer, nor weary ;  
 Trust His love.  
 Whatsoe'er His wisdom sendeth,  
 Though, with grief, thy heart He rendeth,  
 Though the blessings that He sendeth  
 He remove,  
 All, He for thy good intendeth :  
 Trust His love.

Dost thou seek to know what lieth  
 On before ?  
 'Tis enough that He descrieth  
 Evermore.

Though thy feet are torn and bleeding,  
 Take His hand and trust His leading :  
 Jesus knows just what thou 'rt needing  
 On this shore ;  
 Faith He 'll give thee for thy pleading ;  
 Trust him more.

Though thy cross be not with roses  
 Strewn today,  
 Though until this earth-life closes,  
 Dark thy way,  
 Yet beyond the night there's dawning  
 Joy that cometh in the morning :  
 Press thou on, thy trials scorning,  
 On, nor stay !  
 Thou shalt yonder *in* the dawning,  
 Rest for aye.

---

AUTUMN THOUGHTS.

---

When the breezes of summer are dying,  
 And the winds of the autumn time call  
 Through the tree-tops, with moaning and sighing,  
 Comes the season, the saddest of all ; —



When the birch and the chestnut are turning  
From the mid-summer green to the gold,  
And the maples are glowing and burning  
In the depths of the thick forest old;

When the sumachs, that none but the Master  
Thus could paint, deck the copse and the plain,  
And the golden-rod, gentian, and aster,  
Fade away in the meadow and lane;

When the song of the cricket comes faintly  
From the orchard, the hillside, and lea:—  
For 't is then that a loved one, so saintly,  
Speaks once more a sad farewell to me.

Like a dream are the years since my childhood,  
And again, with a dear one alone,  
I am treading the path through the wildwood,  
With the mosses and ferns overgrown;

I can hear as of old the sweet story  
That she told me that bright summer day,  
Of the Savior, of heaven and its glory,  
Which await all the righteous for aye.

Then she said: "Very soon I am going  
To the beautiful Home that I love:"  
And she plead, while her tears fast were flowing,  
That at last I would meet her above.

I renewed the grave promise I made her  
In the bright summer days of the year,  
When, at rest, in the autumn, they laid her,  
'Neath the grasses so brown and so sere.

I have missed her, O, how I have missed her!  
Since they took her away from my gaze:  
And my heart, every year, for my sister  
Yearns anew, in the sad autumn days.

But the spring, with its sunshine and showers,  
Will awaken the buds of the trees,  
And will call forth the beautiful flowers  
From their sleep underneath the dead leaves.

And as nature ariseth in gladness  
From its long winter's rest to rich bloom,  
So our loved ones, o'er earth and its sadness  
All triumphant, shall rise from the tomb.

Then why mourn that the friends God has given  
He removes for a few weary years;  
They are only transplanted to heaven  
From the garden of earth's smiles and tears.

And if true to our God, we shall meet them  
     Over there on the "Evergreen Shore,"  
 By the dear Savior's side we shall greet them,  
     To go out from their presence no more.

---

### THE GOOD NOT LOST.

---

Do we feel that the word gently spoken  
     Is forgotten or lost where it lies?  
 It shall rise yet again as a token,  
     For the good that we do never dies.

It may shrink to the depths from earth's pleasure  
     As the bud 'neath the cold, chilling frost;  
 But the springtime shall bring forth its treasure,  
     For the good that we do is ne'er lost.

Does the hand-clasp so earnest and kindly  
     Seem as naught that we do to relieve?  
 It may comfort a heart groping blindly,  
     It may soothe where a cold look would grieve.

And the kind, loving thought that we cherish,  
     Bringing peace to some sad, weary soul,  
 Giving strength to one ready to perish,  
     Is not lost while the ages shall roll.

And the word, and the act, and the feeling,  
     Though they seem very small in our eyes,  
 May be angels of mercy revealing  
     The great message of love from the skies.

---

### THE OLD RED SCHOOL-HOUSE.

---

I see it now as when in youth,  
     We children scampered o'er the sill:  
 'T was rude, ah! yes,— and all uncouth,  
     The old red school-house on the hill.

'T was built of brick, but many a storm  
     Had beat upon those red walls, bare,  
 And left its mark in rent forlorn,  
     All plastered o'er with zealous care.

In entry small were ranged around  
     Or hook or nail for hat or scarf;  
 And there at merry school-bell's sound  
     We hung them up with shout and laugh.

Our gleesome words we scarce could quell  
Ere teacher's "Hush," a warning gave,  
Then quietly in line we fell,  
Oft late the punishment to save.

The rough pine benches lettered o'er  
By many hands in idle hours,—  
I see them now as when of yore  
We wreathed them round with wildwood flowers.

The teacher's desk with seat so high,  
Beside the black-board where we toiled  
O'er problem hard,— with faces wry,  
And hands which chalk and tears had soiled.

The stove that stood the door-way nigh,—  
The "low seat" running out behind,—  
The smoke-stained walls and windows high,  
On memory's page, all these I find.

I mind me how a summer day,  
We gazed the open door-way through,  
On pasture green and broad highway,  
Where often passed the friends we knew.

And last, not least, the teachers kind  
And scholars who those aisles have trod ;  
A few beside us still we find,—  
A few are lying 'neath the sod.

I think of one who shared my seat,  
Beside me sat in every class ;—  
But nevermore this one we 'll greet,  
Until we too from earth shall pass.

Another faded while the leaves  
Were growing crisp and brown and sere ;  
The time when nature round us weaves  
The garlands of the dying year ;

Upon the hill-side gray and bare  
When autumn winds were blowing cool,  
They laid to rest with tenderest care  
The favorite of our merry school.

The Angel Reaper came once more,  
And gathered home two sisters fair,—  
They passed them to the fadeless shore,  
Its peaceful, holy joys to share.

The rest who met within those walls,  
Are scattered over all the land ;  
A few preside in other halls  
Of learning,— o'er some merry band.

And each pursues his chosen way  
 In paths of wrong or paths of right;  
 Toils on the tide of sin to stay,  
 Or sinks beneath its curse and blight.  
 May not our work be but begun,  
 When life's great school at last is o'er;  
 And may we all, our tasks well done,  
 Rejoin the school-mates gone before.  
 The school-house rude no more is seen,  
 A modern one now marks the spot,  
 But yet by well-tried friends I ween,  
*Our* school-house ne'er will be forgot.

---

### I MISS THEE.

---

I miss thee by the little stream  
 Where we full often roved,  
 Where grew the flowers, the sweet wild flowers,  
 We both so dearly loved:  
 The asters blooming on its brink,  
 The gentians, Heaven's own blue,  
 The lowly pink gerardias  
 All lead thee back anew.  
 Methinks their hues would brighter seem,  
 Their fragrance be more sweet,  
 Could'st thou, as oft in other days,  
 Their opening beauty greet.  
 I miss thee in the wooded glen,  
 Where ferns and mosses grow;  
 And in the long, gray fields at eve,  
 Dear friend, I miss thee so.  
 Can'st thou remember still the way  
 Beneath the pine-trees' shade,  
 Where, in the quiet eventide,  
 Our feet together strayed?  
 I see not now thy welcome form,  
 I tread the path alone,  
 Whilst, in the branches, zephyrs sweet  
 Are sad-voiced spirits grown.  
 I strain my eyes to catch a glimpse,  
 Adown the narrow street,  
 Of her, whom oft in bygone days,  
 My waiting eyes would greet;  
 I see thee not — I hear thee pass  
 The casement by no more;  
 I cannot hear thy gentle voice  
 Call softly at the door.

The doors are barred, the shutters closed.  
Where I was wont to see  
The well-known faces from the home  
Gaze smiling out at me.  
I miss thee from the garden walk,  
The vine-clad portico,  
And 'neath the trees where I have seen  
The loved forms come and go.

I miss thee, miss thee most of all  
Within the room of prayer;  
No other e'er can be the same.  
Thy place is vacant there.  
I miss thy words of counsel,  
Thy gentle words of cheer,  
Thy hopefulness, thy trustfulness,  
Thy love which knew no fear.  
The place, that thou beside my own  
Wast ever wont to fill,  
Has waited, as for thy return.  
Is empty, waiting still.

I miss thee, but I 'll meet thee soon,  
Beside the Living Stream;  
On those fair banks all grief shall be  
As it had never been:  
There, sweetest flowers our eyes shall greet,  
Of amaranthine hue,  
Upspringing in the Heavenly fields,  
In beauty ever new.  
Our hearts shall know no parting there,  
No grief shall ever come;  
But in that Paradise of God,  
"We 'll dwell with Christ at Home."

#### EASTER.

---

The gloom is dense; the darkness fills  
The world with deepest shades of night;  
The dawn begins; Judea's hills  
Are bathed in its effulgent light.  
'Tis morning now; o'er all the place  
Where erst an angry mob was seen  
'Tis quiet; over all the race  
A death-like Stillness reigns as queen.

The place is hushed where Jesus lay;  
 His murderers have had their will;  
 Within the tomb not far away  
 The smitten *form* at last is still.  
 The women come with trembling heart;  
 "Who will for us remove the stone?"  
 When lo! the door is rent apart,  
 And angel guards keep watch alone.

"I know your errand; cease your fear;"  
 They hear the shining angel say.  
 "The Lord is risen: He is not here;  
 Come see the place where Jesus lay.  
 Go quickly, His disciples tell  
 To Galilee He goes before;—"   
 A glad refrain the breezes swell,—  
 "There they shall see His face once more."

"Seek not the living 'mid the dead,  
 Lo! I have told you: go your way;  
 The Lord is risen as He said."  
 The night is past: 't is break of day.  
 "He lives!" the echoes send reply,  
 "He lives o'er earth and heaven to reign:"  
 And everything in earth or sky  
 Repeats, "He lives! He lives again!"

You who have seen your loved ones die,  
 Who feel the bitter pain and loss,  
 Restrain the tear: repress the sigh,  
 Behold the glowing Easter cross.  
 The Crucified is ris'n to reign:  
 So all He loves shall rise again:  
 Let saints and angels join the strain,  
 And all the nations say, "Amen!"

---

#### FRINGED GENTIAN.

---

I gathered them upon the streamlet's brink,  
 Fringed gentians, blue as autumn skies o'erhead:  
 Then sat me down beside the brooklet's edge,  
 And thought of one for many long years dead.

I gazed upon the blue-fringed petals there,  
 Until the present day seemed lost to me,  
 And we, the children then, 'mid other scenes,  
 Roamed field and wood, all careless, glad and free.

We gather gentians by the river side,

These same fair azure flowers, she and I :—  
We twine them o'er our desks at village school,—

We lay them on a playmate's grave to die.

The years pass on ; within a quiet room

A wasted invalid is lying low ;

A gentle hand is resting on her brow,

And gentian flowers soothe the sufferer's woe.

And then,—the fair blue blossoms purple seem.

The autumn sky is blackness grown o'erhead :

The gentle zephyrs wailing winds become,

And I am left alone but for the dead.

Upon a pillow of the purest bloom,

Traced in the azure blue she loved so well,

Above a coffined form this tribute rests :

"Dear friend." We *loved* thee more than *words* can tell.

. . . . .

The flowers on the earth were withering ;

The sun had run its course ev'n to the west ;

I gathered up the faded, dying flowers,

And went my way — once more to home and rest.

---

### CHRISTMAS-TIDE.

---

"It is done as I requested

And you need no longer stay,

I will pay this little trifle

At some more convenient day."

Quick the door turns on its hinges,

And upon the cold, gray stone,

With the winter sky above her,

Stands the seamstress — all alone.

Hastily the bell she reaches,—

But she falters — then — so slow —

Turns away, and down the pathway

Staggers on into the snow.

Bitter winds amid the tree-tops,

Wailing, moaning, hurry by,

But she does not heed their voices :

Hears she but one pleading cry.

"I 'm so cold and hungry, mother,

Do not leave your Willie long ;"

"Come and sit beside me, mother,

List with me the angels' song."

Well she knew her boy was dying;  
 Sickness, want, their work had done;  
 And "the crumbs" from Riches' table  
 Might have *saved* her only son!

She has gained the narrow alley,  
 Passed the door and climbed the stair,  
 Reached the side, 'mid growing darkness,  
 Of the dear one waiting there.  
 Blaze the lights in wealthy mansions,—  
 But no taper gilds *their* gloom,—  
 Christmas-trees with costly fruitage,—  
 Want, dwells in that attic room.

. . . . .

"Hark! the city bells are chiming,  
 Listen, mother, to their lay:  
 'Unto you is born a Savior,  
 Christ the Lord is born today.  
 Glory, glory in the highest,  
 Peace on earth, good-will to men:'  
 I shall soon be with the angels.  
 I shall hear that song again."

Bending o'er her child, the mother  
 Waits for him the glad release:  
 All forgotten, in the Presence,  
 Weariness and hunger cease.  
 Still the bells are chiming, chiming,  
 Still the mansions' Christmas cheer,  
 Still the moaning in the tree-tops;—  
 But the King of Kings is *here*.  
 Christmas morning dawns in splendor,  
 Merry greetings fill the air;  
 Loving friends round happy hearth-stones  
 Meet, their Christmas joys to share.  
 Christmas bells still sweetly chime them,  
 But the angels' song begun,  
 Changes to a Welcome Chorus  
 For the mother and her son.

---

1827 — 1877.

---

Written for the Golden Wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dix, Townsend, Mass., Mar. 8.  
 1877.

My thoughts through vanished years, tonight,  
 Flow back, along Time's rippling stream,  
 As gentle wavelets, clear and bright,  
 Glide 'neath the moonlight's silv'ry beam:



They lead me backward fifty years,  
Through joy and sorrow, smiles and tears.

And there I fain would pause, at last,  
And view that scene of days gone by :  
Two hands close-clasped, a promise passed,  
And then two heads bent reverently :  
Kind wishes said, and all is done,  
Two lives have drifted into one.

The happy days to years increase,—  
The quiet years of hope and joy,—  
Ere sorrow comes to mar their peace,  
Or mingle it with Grief's alloy :  
Then,— little hands crossed on the breast.  
And little forms laid down to rest.

And so the cloudlet veils the sun,  
And so the sunshine tints the shade,  
As down the years that ceaseless run,  
Thought, flowing on, is ne'er delayed :  
Yet two familiar forms are seen,  
Through all the changeful shade and sheen.

And children loved are there to bless,  
With merry voice and happy face :  
And aged ones round hearth-stones press,  
While still the years roll on apace :  
Then,— wedding days and farewells said,  
And aged ones laid with the dead.

A daughter calmly laying down  
The pleasures of Life's springtime fair,  
That up above, the promised crown,  
She may with joy forever wear.  
Time passes on : it will not stay,  
And fifty years have rolled away.

How fast these fifty years have fled !  
Yet happy years they 've been withal,  
The sun e'er shining overhead,  
Ev'n while a shadow seems to fall :  
A God, e'er watching o'er our ways,  
Whose blessings crown our earthly days.

And now, kind friends, to meet you here,  
This eve of early spring, have come  
To celebrate with words of cheer  
This Golden Wedding in your home ;  
Your children, relatives, and all,  
Unite in this glad festival.

May many years of quiet peace  
 Be unto you an earnest given  
 Of fairer days, when life shall cease  
 Amid the blissful joys of Heaven;  
 And may you join when life is o'er,  
 In that Blest Land, friends gone before.

---

“LOOK UNDER THE DEAD LEAVES AND YOU 'LL  
 FIND FLOWERS.”

---

Beneath the dry and withered leaves  
 On the hillside gray and bare  
 We find the pale arbutus flowers,  
 All dewy wet with April showers,  
 Dewy and sweet and fair.

Unseen their beauty 'neath the leaves,  
 Till the eager, out-stretched hand  
 Removes the leafy canopy,  
 Then lowly clustering, we spy  
 Blossoms,— a fragrant band.

A rough exterior often hides  
 From the gaze of passers-by,  
 A heart of truest, purest worth;  
 A noble soul of heavenly birth,  
 Fragrant — its ministry.

But when we search beneath the leaves,—  
 The forbidding, rude disguise,—  
 We find the blossoms fair and sweet;  
 We find a soul for glory meet,  
 Which underneath them lies.

---

FAITH.

---

If, walking 'midst life's roses  
 With sunny skies above,  
 Upon our brow soft breezes,  
 Around us those we love;  
 Without a doubt to trouble  
 Our calm unruffled way,  
 We trust to God's great wisdom  
 To guide us day by day,  
 Can this be faith?

Ah ! no : but when the blossoms  
 Are dead around our feet :  
 When skies are dark at noon-day,  
 And all that makes life sweet  
 Has faded with the flowers :  
 If then no doubt intrude  
 Of Him who of our life-walk  
 Has made this solitude,  
 Oh, this is faith.

---

ARBUTUS.

---

On a brown and sheltered hillside  
 'Neath the trees with leaflets sere,  
 'Mid the mosses and the lichens,  
 In the morning of the year,  
 While the wind of early springtime  
 Through the pine-grove sobs and grieves,  
 Gathered we the pale sweet flowerets  
 From their nest beneath the leaves.  
 Fragrant, frail arbutus blossoms,  
 Waxen, spotless as the snow :  
 Just as sweet, and pure, and fragrant,  
 As they were a year ago.

One short year ago and round me  
 Friendship bound her silken thread :  
 O'er my shadowy way her radiance  
 Like a living glory spread.  
 And the rocky path and thorny  
 Smoother grew beneath my feet,  
 And beside it, just beyond me,  
 Bloomed hope's flow'rets, fair and sweet.

But the springtime merged in summer,  
 And the autumn days drew near :  
 Then the heavens grew dark and threatening,  
 And the leaves fell brown and sere.  
 Winter came, and o'er life's landscape  
 Fell a mantle, cold and white,  
 All the radiance and the beauty  
 Shut forever from my sight.  
 Spring brings not to me the friendship  
 That the winter stole away,  
 But the frail, sweet, springtime blossoms  
 Changeless come to cheer each day.

## EXTRACTS.

The earth resplendent with the golden sunshine  
Lies glorified along our way.

— OUR BLESSINGS.

A lesson we may learn of thee,  
Thou busy brook:  
To tread unmoved our narrow way,  
Through cloudy or through sunny day,  
Unheeding all the world may say,  
Nor backward look.

— THE BROOKLET'S LESSON.

The loving thoughts we shelter in the heart  
Upspringing there, the blades of good shall grow,  
Which, kept by watchful care from weeds apart,—  
The evil thoughts we but too often sow,—

Shall flourish, grow in strength, and soon increase,  
And we in life's last days the fruit shall see;  
Reward of life well spent,— eternal peace,—  
For "as our sowing, shall our reaping be."

— SOWING AND REAPING.

Oftentimes beside the quiet lake,  
The merry children searched for shell or stone,  
Or wandered in the meadow after lilies,  
Or listened to the water's ceaseless moan.

. . . . .

Past that quiet spot I roamed today,  
But sound of human voice I could not hear;  
Where'er I sought,— no sign of human presence,—  
Save Nature's murmur,— silence far and near.

— OUR OLD HOME.

The influence of every word  
I felt for either good or ill.  
And hearts by loving thoughts bestirred,  
A kindly influence e'er distil,  
And, as the dew upon the flower,  
So falls on man its magic power.

— WORD INFLUENCE.

The day, with its cares, is closing,  
And the twilight shades enfold  
The gray old hills,  
The rocks and rills,  
And the pines beyond the wold.

A quiet, all calm and holy,  
O'er the world is resting low,  
As if apart  
To lift the heart  
From its earthly care and woe.

— WORK FOR GOD.

Few her years and full of sorrow,  
Yet across the pale, sweet face,  
Not a shadow comes to borrow  
Aught of all its trust and grace.

— A TALE OF BRITTANY.

Ah! we know not; yet God knoweth,  
Wisely hath he planned it all;  
Sow thy seed, then wait with patience  
Till God's rain and sunshine fall;  
Springing forth but at His bidding  
It shall surely hear His call.

— SOW THE SEED.

—when at last  
The trial's past  
The soul shall purer be,  
And brighter shine,  
Through coming time,  
For sorrow's ministry.

— AFTER THE RAIN.

And the deep blue heavens low-bending,  
Seem to bless the woodland bowers,  
Bidding them awake from slumber  
'Midst the gentle April showers.

— SPRING HAS COME.

---

George H. Hager married Florence E. Albee, of Clinton, and they have two daughters, Mabel Elizabeth and Mary Alice. George H. and Benjamin O. Hager are engaged in the grocery business in Clinton. John M. Hager married Mattie L. Coan, of Somerville, and resides in that place. They have a daughter, Mildred Rich, and a son, Clayton Marden.

Daniel Hager, the youngest son of Phinehas and Ruth Hager, born Feb. 16, 1829, married Maria H. Nottage, of Stark,

Maine, and went to Kansas where they remained eight years. They were the parents of five children, of whom four are living: Esther J. and Ella J., twin girls, William H. and Herbert W. They are now settled in Wendell, Mass. William H. married Miss Margaret Cope and resides in Tully, Mass. They have two children.

## CHAPTER XI.

JAMES R. HAYDEN — HAYWARD FAMILY — JOHN HOAR —  
WM. S. HOUGHTON — LITTLEFIELD FAMILY.

## JAMES R. HAYDEN.

Mr. James Rule Hayden has lived upon the farm which he owns at the present time, for fifty-one years. His grandfather, Peter Wheeler, who was born in 1760 and died in 1846 at the advanced age of eighty-six years, formerly occupied the place, and at his death left it to his grandson. James R. Hayden is the son of Rufus and Nabby (Wheeler) Hayden, and was born in Acton, Mass., in 1824, being the youngest but one of a family of five children, four sons and one daughter. Mrs. Susan C. Fletcher, of Fletcher Corner, Acton, is Mr. Hayden's sister. He came to reside with his grandfather in 1840, and took care of him the last six years of his life. Mr. Wheeler was thrice married. His first wife, Mr. Hayden's grandmother, was Abigail Tuttle of Acton, and Nabby was one of a family of thirteen. Mr. Peter Wheeler served as a major drummer in the Revolutionary War. He lies buried in the cemetery at the south part of the town.

Mr. James R. Hayden married for his first wife, Miss Aroline Dickey, of China, Me., and they were the parents of three children, Orville J., William H. and Nellie A. Orville J. Hayden married Miss Mary Stone, of Royalston, Mass., and they have one daughter, Harriet Edith. They reside in Somerville, Mass., where Mr. Hayden is employed by the Adams Express Co. William H. Hayden married Miss Flora Strickland, of Lowell, Mass., and they, with their three

children, Arthur A., Florence A., and George, are settled at East Acton. Nellie A. Hayden married Mr. Frederic Norris, of Boston, and removed to Medford, Mass. Mr. Norris is a painter in that place. They have three sons, Ernest, Frank, and Harold.

Mr. James R. Hayden married for his second wife, Miss Harriet Sargent, daughter of Elijah and Abiah (Foster) Sargent, of Denville, Vt. She was the youngest of a family of eight children.

Mr. Hayden's brick dwelling is situated at the junction of the old turnpike and the Stow road, and in close proximity to the Congregational church and parsonage. He has been sexton of the church twenty-eight years. He has always been an industrious man, and the farm of his ancestors has improved under his hands.

In Peter Wheeler's time, a blacksmith's shop arose on the site of the present parsonage. The house in which he lived was situated on the common in front of Mr. Hayden's dwelling, which was built about sixty years ago. An old well marks the spot. After the erection of the new edifice, the old building was removed, and forms a part of the barn on the premises at the present time.

#### THE HAYWARD FAMILY.

I am indebted to Mr. Herbert Nelson Hayward, of Rowley, Mass., formerly of Boxborough, for information regarding the Hayward family, nearly all of which has been selected from the "Genealogy of the Hayward Family" which he is preparing at the present time.

"Georg Heaward" or Hayward, and his wife, Mary (American ancestors of the Boxborough Haywards), were one of the "about twelve families" that Rev. Peter Bulkeley, of Odell, England, and Simon Willard, a merchant of Horsmonden, County of Kent, brought with them, embarking from London, May 9, 1635, in the ship "Susan and Ellen" (Captain Edward Paine, of Wapping, England), and settled at



Musketaquid (Concord, Mass.), in the fall of 1635. He was one of the first settlers of Concord, and had an allotment of land from the first division of lands of the original grant, by the General Court, of six miles of land square, where he built a house and barn. In 1664 he built a saw-mill, afterward a corn-mill, at what is still known as Hayward's Mills. His full name has appeared in ancient records, in addition to that above, as Gog Heaward, Georg Heward, George Heyward, Georg Heyward, George Heiward, George Heywood and Geo. Howard; but Savage in his "Genealogical Dictionary" says, "he wrote his name Heaward." Georg Heaward and wife are quite likely a branch of the Hayward, alias Haward, or Howard family, that early settled on the Isle of Hartrey, in the northeast part of Kent County, England. *This* Hayward family was a branch of the very ancient and original family of Havard or Hayward, alias Havert, Heyward, Haward, Howard, of Wales, where the earliest records of the Norman ancestor,—who, it is said, came in the eleventh century from Havre de Grace, the seaport town of Normandy, in the northern part of France,—are found to be.

"Joseph; heaward," or "hayward," as he signed his name to his will, Jan. 29, 1711, was the second son of Georg Heaward and Mary, his wife, of Concord, Mass. He was born in Concord, Mar. 26, 1643; married (1) Hannah Hosmer, of Concord, who died Dec. 15, 1675; (2) Elizabeth Treadway, of Watertown, who probably died 1699. He died Oct. 13, 1714, aged 71.

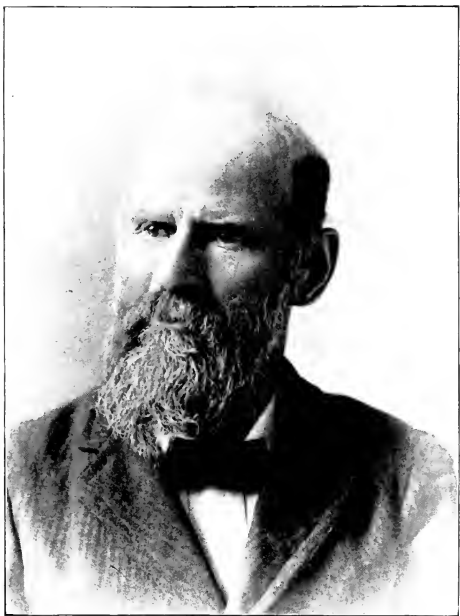
Simeon hayward, of Concord, sixth son of Joseph and Elizabeth hayward, born in 1683, married Rebecca Hartwell, of Concord, in 1705, died May 18, 1719. Dea. Samuel Hayward, of Acton, Mass., second son of Simeon hayward, or Hayward, and Rebecca (Hartwell) Hayward, of Concord,—born 1713, married 1739. Mary Stevens died Mar. 6, 1791, aged 77 years, 11 months, 1 day. Paul Hayward, of Boxborough, second son of Dea. Samuel and Mary (Stevens) Hayward, of Acton, born Apr. 2, 1745, married Anna White, of Acton, July 14, 1768, died May 16, 1825, aged 79 years, 10 months, 17

days. His wife, Anna, died at the advanced age of 91 years, 8 months, 24 days. On coming to Boxborough, they settled on the farm now owned by Mrs. Eliza A. Hayward. They had a family of ten children: Anna, Paul, Sarah, Mather, Elizabeth, James, Susannah, Ebenezer, Mary and Samuel Hayward. Anna married Moses Whitecomb; Dea. Paul (1771-1841) married Lucy Whitecomb; Sarah (1772-1866) married Reuben Graham; Mather (1774-1850) married Lucy Page, of Bedford; Elizabeth (1776-1854) married (1) Gates, (2) Whitecomb, of Littleton; James (1779-1846) married Eunice Wood, of Boxborough; Susannah married Moses Hartwell, of Littleton; Ebenezer (1783-1861) married Polly Wetherbee; Mary married (1) John Wood, (2) Jonathan Nource, of Boxborough; Esquire Samuel (1785-1863) married Sophia Stevens, of Marlborough.

Dea. Paul and Lucy (Whitecomb) Hayward had fourteen children: Paul, Lucy, Ephraim, Joel, James, John, Stevens, Samuel, Hannah, Eliza Ann, Joseph, and three who died young. Paul, Ephraim, Joel, James, John and Samuel, all settled in Ashby, Mass.; Lucy married John Kimball, of Littleton; Stevens married Harriet Johnson; Hannah died at the age of twenty-four; Eliza A. married (1) Ebenezer W. Hayward, (2) Col. John Whitecomb, both of Boxborough; and Dea. Joseph, born Mar. 12, 1819, married (1) Catherine Walton Wellington, and (2) Mrs. Ellen A. Bezauson, of Chelsea, Mass., Sept. 30, 1884.

#### JOEL FOSTER HAYWARD.

James Hayward, who married Harriet Foster, and settled in Ashby, had one son, Joel Foster, born in Ashby, Nov. 8, 1835. He remained upon the farm with his father until twenty-one years of age, and then attended school at Wilbraham for one year. Returning home, he soon after came to Boxborough, remained with his Uncle Joseph Hayward a short time, worked for James C. Houghton, of Littleton, a few months, and then upon solicitation returned and taught the winter term of the South school in Ashby. In the spring,



*Joel F. Hayward*



Mr. Adelbert Mead, of Acton, engaged him to work through the summer for Isaac Whitney, of Harvard. The following winter he spent in the employ of A. and O. W. Mead and Co., Acton, of whom he bought a farm in that town, where he remained twelve years. Afterward removing to Boxborough, he resided upon the Stone place nine years, and then having purchased the farm of Col. John Whitecomb, he removed thither with his family.

July 6, 1859, he married Sarah E. Webber, of Ashby, and they were the parents of eight children: Cornelia A., who married Granville Veasie, of Boxborough; Cordelia E., who died young; James P., Stevens, Joel Foster, Minnie, Martha J. and Roland.

Joel Foster Hayward, Sr., was for ten years deacon of the Congregational church in Acton. He taught school one term in No. 4 District, 1860; and he has served the town as superintendent of schools, also as auditor and selectman.

Deacon Joseph and Catharine (Wellington) Hayward had two children, Joseph Warren and Lucie Helena. J. Warren, born Apr. 3, 1843, married, Jan. 29, 1874, Margaret A. V. Hutchins, of Carlisle, Mass., and they have four children, Lena, William W., Warren and Charles M. Mr. Hayward has served the town as selectman and assessor for several years, also as school committee. Lucie H. married Edgar C. Mead, of Boxborough, and they have four children, Clarence W., Eben H., Ethel W. and Catharine L. Joseph Hayward was deacon of the Congregational church in Boxborough for twenty-six years. He died June 22, 1888.

James and Eunice (Wood) Hayward were the parents of nine children: Eunice, Susannah, James Wood, John (who died when 26 years of age), Stevens, Lucy Ann, Paul (who died at the age of twenty), and two who died in childhood. Eunice married Emery Fairbanks; Susannah married Sewell Fairbanks; James Wood married Hannah E. Conant, of Acton, Mass.; Stevens married Charlotte Conant, of Acton, who was eighth in descent from Roger Conant, the first Colonial Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony at Cape Ann, in 1624;

Lucy Ann married Thomas Burbeck, of Acton, buried her husband in 1870, and is now living with her brother, Stevens Hayward, in Boxborough. "James Hayward" says William S. Wood in his "Wood Genealogy," "was named for his uncle, James Hayward, of Acton, Mass., who fell at Lexington, Apr. 19, 1775, the day of the Concord fight." He was said to have been an excellent man and universally esteemed by those who knew him. He was for a number of years, selectman, assessor, and highway surveyor of Boxborough. Captain James Wood Hayward, his son, resides in West Acton. He has been active and enterprising, and is a prominent man in his town.

Stevens and Charlotte (Conant) Hayward were the parents of five children: Charles H., who died in infancy, Herbert N., J. Quincy, Clara S. and Lottie M. Herbert N. married Sarah P. Baldwin, of Waltham, and they have one son, William Baldwin. Mr. Hayward is engaged in the retail grocery and provision business in Rowley, Mass., where he resides with his family. J. Quincy, a graduate of Amherst, class of 1882, is at present engaged on the staff of the *Bunker Hill Times*, Boston. Clara S. married Charles L. Woodward, of Landsgrove, Vt., Mar. 25, 1884, and is settled on the homestead place of her father in Boxborough. They have one son, Harry. Lottie M. married Charles V. McClenathan, of West Rindge, N. H. They have one child.

Stevens Hayward received an academic education, taught school in Boxborough and Acton, and finally settled on his father's farm, where he has lived most of his life. He was a member of the Boxborough Light Infantry Company when it existed, and has been school committee and highway surveyor of Boxborough.

Ebenezer and Polly (Wetherbee) Hayward had seven children: Ebenezer W., Albert, Mary, Franklin, Susanna, Anna and Paul. Ebenezer W. married Eliza Ann Hayward, daughter of Dea. Paul and Lucy (Whitecomb) Hayward. Dea. Albert married Eliza Wetherbee, of Concord, and settled in Acton, Mass. Their two sons, George and Edwin, reside in West Acton. Anna married Ariston M. Hayward, of Bridge-

water, Nov. 16, 1867, and removed to that place, where she now resides. She taught school in Districts Nos. 2, 3 and 4 in her native town, also in the Primary and Intermediate or Grammar schools in West Acton. Hon. Paul Hayward married Alice M. Balcom, of Sudbury, Mass., and they were the parents of four children, Alice P., who died in infancy; Florence M., Albert H. and Cally H. Florence M. married Maurice G. Cochrane, of Melrose. Albert H. is master mechanic of the Thomson-Houston Electric Company, of all work on the West End Street Railway System, Boston, and he is also purchasing agent for the same company. Hon. Paul Hayward resided on his father's homestead for many years. He was school committee and deacon of the Congregational church for a long time. He had the honor of being sent representative from Boxborough in 1871, and he served in the late civil war for nearly two years. On account of the sickness and suffering experienced while in his country's service, he was granted, in 1885, an invalid pension. He removed from Boxborough to Reading in 1864, thence to Melrose Highlands in 1879. In 1887 he went to Los Angeles, California, and entered the employ of the Los Angeles Electric Street Railway, as a conductor. He is now temporarily residing there.

Esquire Samuel Haywood and Sophia, his wife, were the parents of five children: Mary Ann, Louisa, Samuel Henry, Sophia Lavina, and Susan. Mary Ann, born in Boxborough, Apr. 19, 1815, married, Oct. 5, 1876, Samuel K. Hildreth, of Medford, Mass. Louisa, born Sept. 8, 1820, married Augustus Rice, of Marlborough, and settled at Rock-bottom. She is now a resident of Cambridge, Mass. Samuel Henry, born Aug. 13, 1823, married Louisa Conant, and died Dec. 6, 1884. Sophia Lavina, born Nov. 12, 1826, married Isaac Warren Fletcher, of Stow, in 1851. He died in 1863. Susan, born June 11, 1829, died Jan. 13, 1854, aged twenty-four years. Esquire Samuel Hayward lies in the beautiful family lot in the lower burying-ground in Boxborough, and his only son, Samuel Henry, is also buried there.

Deacon M. E. Wood, in his centennial speech, said of the six Hayward sons who removed to Ashby: "They, and their descendants, exert a large influence in all that pertains to the welfare of the town, both agricultural and educational. In all the work of the church they are generous supporters; one of them at his death left a generous bequest, that these blessings might be perpetuated." The obituary notice of their mother is worthy of note: "This aged Christian was a pattern of industry, kindness, meekness, patience and piety. For three score and six years she was a consistent member of the Congregational church in Boxborough; her eleven children joined the church of their mother, and two of them became deacons in it after their father."

It is related of Dea. Paul Hayward, grandfather of Dea. Joseph Hayward, that, having raised a good crop of corn one season, a thing which no other farmer had succeeded in doing,—seed corn consequently being scarce and high,—he would sell only half a peck to any one person, rich or poor, and that at the rate of \$2 per bushel.

Dea. Paul Hayward, the father of Dea. Joseph Hayward, did a great deal for the Congregational church when it was in its infancy. So marked were his efforts in this direction, that he may almost be said to have been the founder of it. Was money wanted for one purpose or another? He helped to raise it. Were there arrearages to meet? He put his hand into his own pocket and paid them. Was a house wanted for the pastor's residence? He built one (Mr. Peter Whitcomb's present dwelling) and gave the minister the free use of it during his lifetime. He was forward in every good word and work. After his death, his mantle fell upon his son, Dea. Joseph Hayward, who was one of the pillars of the church in Boxborough, and will long be missed from his accustomed place.

#### JOHN HOAR.

John Hoar, born July 18, 1791, was one of the old residents of Boxborough, and formerly occupied the house where Jerome



Whitney now lives. The artwell, Whitcomb and Whitney places, were, in his day, all in one farm. He married Harriet Hartwell, of Littleton, and their three children are married and settled in Boxborough, on these three farms. The eldest daughter, Harriet Elvira, born Nov. 7, 1816, married Mr. Jerome Whitney, Jan. 19, 1839, and resides at the old homestead. Caroline, the second daughter, born March, 1820, married Mr. Granville Whitcomb, Mar. 4, 1841, and resides near by on a farm which was once a part of the original homestead; and Simon Hartwell (Hoar), born May, 1818, married Lydia Tuttle, daughter of Nathan Tuttle, of Littleton, and settled on the third farm taken from the original homestead. Mr. and Mrs. Whitney have two children living, Harriet Elvira, who married Ephraim Cobleigh, of Boxborough, and Ora, who is a teacher in Malden. Mr. and Mrs. Simon Hartwell have buried three children, and have five living, Cora, Florence, Albert, Linus, and Edna. Cora resides in Boston. Florence married James, son of Captain Tuttle, of Acton Centre, and is a resident of that village. Albert married Nellie Fitch, and settled in Somerville, is in the milk business in that city, and has acquired quite a property. Linus is also engaged in the milk business in Charlestown. Edna, at the present time, is at home. Mr. Simon Hartwell has served the town as selectman, constable and collector, and auditor, and has filled the positions of assessor, and moderator at town meetings, for many consecutive years. He is highly esteemed by his townsmen.

John Hoar married Betsey Barker, of Acton, for his second wife, and they were the parents of five children: Cephas, born Aug. 17, 1822, Forestus, born Feb. 6, 1831, John Sherman, born June 19, 1829, Louisa, born Dec. 8, 1823, and one who died in infancy. Cephas married for his first wife, Caroline, youngest daughter of Lyman and Jane Bigelow, and for the second, Mary, daughter of Capt. Thomas Lawrence, of West Acton. He is now living in Norwood, Mass. Forestus married Catherine Gilmore, and resides in West Acton. John Sherman married Lydia Whitney, sister of Jerome Whitney, of Leominster, and reared a family of six or seven children.

He died several years ago, and his widow is a resident of West Acton. One daughter, Alice, is a teacher in that town. Three of the sons went West and engaged in business as builders and contractors, and another, John Hoar of West Acton, is an architect.

Louisa Hoar married Jerome Priest, of Boxborough, Apr. 20, 1843, and they had three children, Leon A., Carrie L., and Mabel Barker. Leon A. married Clara Louisa Hartshorn, Nov. 21, 1866, and is living in Seattle, Washington. Carrie L. married Herman Shepard, Mar. 23, 1871. They were the parents of two children, Leon, who died Mar. 22, 1876, aged 4 years, 1 month, 10 days, and Clare, who died Sept. 3, 1873, aged 3 months, 19 days. Mrs. Shepard died July 31, 1875, aged 22 years, 8 months, 18 days, and with her two children is laid in the beautiful family lot in the hill cemetery. Mabel B. Priest is a teacher,—at the present time in Stow. She is a gifted musician. Mrs. Priest is sixty-nine years of age, but is as active, and energetic, and interested in all public or private matters of moment as many a younger person.

Mr. Priest has a very retentive memory, and can relate many things with regard to the infant town and its people, with entire accuracy. This family is also connected with the Wetherbee family, as Mr. Priest's mother was Sally Wetherbee, Mr. Simeon Wetherbee's daughter.

Mr. John Hoar was usher at the time the Universalist church was dedicated in 1836. He died June 18, 1872, aged eighty-one, and is buried in the cemetery at Littleton.

#### WILLIAM S. HOUGHTON.

Mr. William Stevens Houghton, of the firm of Fogg, Houghton, and Coolidge, Boston, was born in this town, June 20, 1816, and lived here until he was ten or twelve years of age. He is a son of Captain Reuben, and Elizabeth (Mead) Houghton, and was reared on the farm recently occupied by Wm. J. Hayden at the centre of the town. His parents and a brother are buried in the cemetery on the hill, where he has recently laid out and enclosed a beautiful lot. There is neither



JACOB LITTLEFIELD.



marble monument nor slab within this quiet enclosure, the lot being surrounded with a finely finished granite curbing on which the names are inscribed. When questioned with regard to the absence of monuments, he said, "It is presumption to raise a monument to *man*." He lived with his parents in Littleton for a few years, but went to Boston when about sixteen years of age, where he afterwards became connected with a large, wholesale leather firm, which was running, at one time, two manufactories. His father carried on business as a merchant at both Littleton Common and Littleton Centre, at different times.

Mr. William S. Houghton is a very liberal man, giving generously of his wealth wherever he sees an opportunity for doing good. At the time he was in town attending to the cemetery lot, he was taken by his cousin, Mr. B. S. Mead, through the Congregational church, which was then being repaired. Mr. Houghton asked Mr. Mead if there was anything they wanted, and afterwards contributed the organ as his share. He did not want anything said about it, and for a long time no one knew from whence the gift came, except those most intimately connected with the transaction, but just as surely as a person's sins will "find him out" so also will his good deeds. Mr. Houghton was the donor of the Reuben Hoar Library building in Littleton. It is said that Mr. Reuben Hoar, formerly of Littleton, once saved Mr. Wm. S. Houghton's father from financial embarrassment, and in gratitude for that service, the son gave the Library building,—to be called by the name of his father's benefactor, "The Reuben Hoar Library,"—at the cost of \$10,000, on condition that the town of Littleton should raise a like amount, which it succeeded in doing. Both Mr. Houghton, and his wife, who is now dead, were trustees of Wellesley College, and were active in religious work, Mrs. Houghton having been at one time one of Mr. Moody's assistants.

#### JACOB LITTLEFIELD.

Jacob Littlefield, of Boxborough, was a direct descendant of Stephen Littlefield, who founded the town of Wells, Maine,

and was born in that place, June 10, 1808, on the farm where his father and grandfather had lived before him. The homestead, although now gone out of the family, remained in possession of the Littlefields for many generations. An interesting anecdote is related of the grandfather of Jacob Littlefield, who was one of the first settlers of Wells, Maine, which illustrates, somewhat, the unsettled state of the country in those early times. He, with his family, lived in a log house, as was customary in those days, and depended for their safety upon his trusty rifle, and a brave, powerful, and sagacious dog. Looking through the chinks in the loosely built walls of his dwelling one night, he discovered a small party of Indians, a dozen or more, engaged in peering about to discover the best mode of ingress to his home, that they might slaughter himself and family. He waited, watched, and allowed them to work until he decided they were quite near enough to effecting their purpose, and then quickly and quietly opening the door a little way, he let out the eager, powerful dog. At the first onset of the canine brute, the Indians fled precipitately, and nothing more was heard of them that night; but the next morning, small pieces of Indian blankets were discovered and picked up, all along their trail for quite a distance, where the brave dog had dropped them as he followed and worried first one and then another of the party. Some little time after this, a few apparently peaceable Indians, having occasion to pass Mr. Littlefield's house, and seeing the famous dog, cried out, "Here, you, Littlefield, take care of that dog; if it had n't been for him, we should have had your scalp that night." And the family concluded that they were of the party, previously so successfully punished for their temerity by that same dog. Jacob Littlefield's father, whose name was also Stephen, died when quite young, and his son Jacob removed to Mass., residing in some of the lower towns at first, and coming to Boxborough when he was nineteen years of age. He worked several years for Samuel Hayward, Esq., on the place now owned and occupied by Steele Brothers, and seven years at one time for Joseph Blanchard, Esq., on the place now owned by

Steele Brothers, where the buildings were recently burned. Nov. 28, 1833, he married Nancy, daughter of Capt. Oliver Taylor, of Boxborough, and they resided with his wife's family on the Varnum Taylor farm until his death, only two years afterwards. They had one son, Sheldon, who is now a resident of California, and a prominent man upon the Pacific slope. He is quite wealthy, and has been for some years a member of the Legislature of that State. He visited his father and his native town about fourteen years ago, a year before his father's death.

Mr. Littlefield married his second wife, Ann Brooks Raymond, of Boxborough, June 10, 1838. She was the eldest of the four children of Nathan and Betsey (Cobleigh) Raymond, who formerly occupied the Nelson place where Mr. Raymond's father resided before him. Nathan Raymond married Hannah Hapgood for his second wife, and they had two sons, Ephraim, and M. Morton, to whom allusion has been made in connection with the Blanchard and Wetherbee families. Mr. and Mrs. Littlefield, immediately after their marriage, went to Wells, Maine, where they remained five years, engaged in farming, during which time their oldest son, Waldo, was born. When he was two years of age, they returned to Boxborough and settled on the Edmund Fletcher farm, now better known as the Littlefield homestead. They had seven children, Waldo, Nahum, Charlotte,—who died at the age of sixteen years, and is laid beside her father in the cemetery on the hill,—Hanson, Susan, Albert, and Julia, all of whom, except Waldo, were born in Boxborough. All are settled in the village of West Acton except Albert. Mrs. Littlefield, who is seventy-six years of age, also resides in that village, and her daughter Susan remains with her. Waldo married Nellie Witherell, of Woodstock, Conn., and is engaged as a carriage manufacturer. Nahum married Adelaide Hayward, and is settled on a farm near the village. Hanson married Florence Preston, and is in the grocery business; and Julia married Willis L. Mead, a painter of West Acton.

Mr. Jacob Littlefield was one of the best farmers in town. He very much improved the farm he made his home, having erected all of the buildings that are now on it, and having planted nearly all of the fruit trees. He was a public-spirited man of energy and determination, and while he did not succeed in amassing great wealth, he secured a comfortable competence. He was connected with town business as selectman, assessor, and overseer of the poor, for seven years. He died Mar. 1, 1879, aged 70 years, 8 months, 21 days.

ALBERT LITTLEFIELD.

Albert Littlefield, son of Jacob and Ann B. (Raymond) Littlefield, was born in Boxborough, May 8, 1856. His early education, which was received in our district schools, was supplemented by several terms at Lathrop's Latin and English school, Waltham. He married Miss Jennie A. Heminway, Dec. 30, 1884, daughter of Charles A. and Carrie (Adams) Heminway, of Framingham, and is settled on the farm of his father, in Boxborough. They have two sons, Charles A. and Earle R.

Mr. Littlefield is serving the town for the eighth year as selectman,— as chairman of the board the present year,— is one of the overseers of the poor, also on the board of assessors, and chairman of the library trustees. He was an active worker as Master of the Grange for four consecutive years, and is now lecturer of that organization; he is also a member of the Odd Fellows' lodge at West Acton. He was interested in the Lyceum while it existed, having acted as its president, and is always active in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the town.





ALBERT LITTLEFIELD.



## CHAPTER XII.

THE MEAD FAMILY — WM. MOORE — JOSEPH H. ORENDORFF —  
PAGE FAMILY — PATCH FAMILY — AMASA A. RICHARD-  
SON — DR. ROBINS.

## THE MEAD FAMILY.

THE ancestors of the first Mead families connected with Boxborough settled in Harvard. Deacon Oliver Mead, who was living here in 1783, and Anna, his wife, were the parents of ten children,—Sarah, Lucy, Anna, Oliver, Jr., Abraham, Elizabeth, Nabby W., Samuel, Hannah (who died when eight years old) and Nathaniel. Sarah, born Dec. 19, 1778, married Levi Houghton, of Harvard. Lucy was unmarried. Anna married William Stevens, father of Oliver Stevens,\* of Boxborough. Oliver, Jr., married Betsey Taylor, who was an aunt of the late Capt. Varnum Taylor, and was brought up on the Taylor place. Abraham married a Kimball, from Littleton, Elizabeth married Reuben Houghton, of Harvard, brother of Levi, and after her death her husband married the next younger daughter of the family, Nabby W. Samuel married three times,—Betsey Stevens and Mary Stevens, of Boxborough, and Lucinda Conant, of Harvard. Nathaniel married Lucy Taylor.

Oliver, Jr., and Betsey, his wife, buried several children. There are seven living: Betsey, Sally, Oliver, Lyman, Emory, Walter and Anna. Betsey, born Nov. 10, 1815, married Peter Whitcomb, and settled in town. Sally married George Hager,

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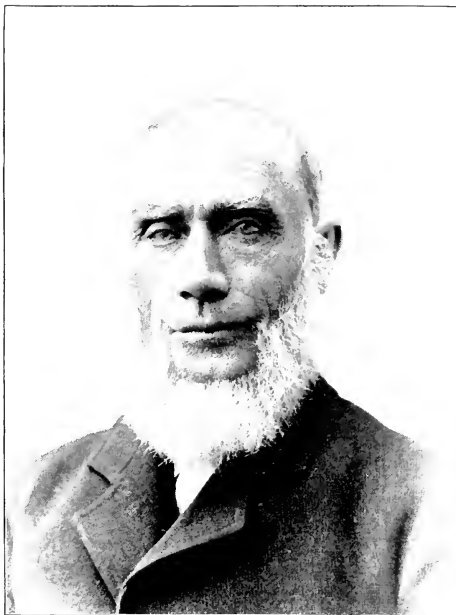
\* Mr. Oliver Stevens, the son of William Stevens, is still living on the old Stevens estate, in the southwest part of the town. William Stevens was school committee and selectman quite a long time.

settled in Boxborough, and afterwards removed to West Acton, where they still reside. Oliver married Caroline Wetherbee, and settled in town: their only living child, Sadie A. B., married Alfred Brown and resides at home. Lyman married Melissa Willis, of Harvard, and they have two children, Lyman Willis and Emma; Willis married Julia Littlefield, of Boxborough; Emma married Frank Priest, of Harvard, and they are both living at West Acton. Emory married Eliza Clement, of Vermont, and settled in town: their only living child, Frances Annie, married Philip Cunningham, and they are settled on the old Stone place. They have four children, Bernice, Stella, Wallace Emory, and Leo. Walter married Eliza Jane Chandler, of Maine, and is living on the Mead estate, where his father and grandfather lived before him; they have three children: two sons — the firm of Charles H. Mead and Co.—are engaged in business at West Acton, and the only daughter, Blanche, is at home. Charles H. married Jennie Bruce, and they reside at West Acton. Anna married William Moore, and their home is the Bigelow homestead at the centre of the town.

Samuel, who married Betsey Stevens, settled on the estate now owned by Mr. Charles Brown. They had three children; Mrs. Elizabeth Ives, of Natick; Franklin, who married Miss Nancy Morse, of Mason, and died in Lunenburg; and Benjamin Stevens.

#### BENJAMIN STEVENS MEAD.

The subject of this sketch was born in Boxborough, on the Samuel Mead farm, July 2, 1823, and remained there engaged in farming until he was twenty-one years of age. The following autumn he went to Natick and learned the shoemaker's trade, but after remaining a year and a half, failing health led him to return to Boxborough, where he followed farming in summer and his trade in the winter season until ill-health again necessitated a change, when he went to Littleton and engaged in farming for eight months for Rev. William H. White. Sept. 19, 1847, he married Rebecca Louisa Burgess, of



BENJAMIN S. MEAD.



Harvard. After his marriage he removed to Natick and engaged himself at his trade for a short time, but finding that farm life was better suited to his health, he soon returned and settled at the old homestead, where he remained until 1881, when he purchased the Reuben Draper place, which he now owns and occupies. Mr. and Mrs. Mead have two children: Edgar C., who married Lucie H. Hayward, and is living in Boxborough, and Minnie L., who married George F. Kingsbury, and resides at Ayer. Mr. Mead held the office of assessor and overseer of the poor, and was selectman for twelve years during the years 1864-84.

Samuel and Mary (Stevens), his second wife, had only one child, Samuel, who died at the West.

Samuel and Lucinda (Conant) Mead were the parents of six children: Lucinda, who married David Howe, of Maine; Albert, who married Alwilda B. Crocker, of Maine; Alfred, who married Hannah Maria Miles, of Stow; Abby, who is unmarried; Anna, who married Charles Harding, and lived only a few years after her marriage; and Mary, who died young. Lucinda, Albert, Alfred and Abby, all reside in Natick. Albert Mead has been an extensive shoe manufacturer, and has acquired a large property, but has now retired from the business and is living upon a farm. He had the honor of representing his town in the Legislature three years ago.

Nathaniel and Lucy (Taylor), his wife, settled on the estate now owned by Mr. Frank Whitecomb. They had eight children: Nathaniel (who had his name changed to Adelbert), Oliver W., born Oct. 19, 1823, Sarah, Maria, Mary, Anna, Varnum and Frances Adelaide. Adelbert married Almira Hoar, of Littleton, and resides at West Acton. Their only living child, Estella, married David Cutler, and is living in her father's home. They have five children: Etta, Ethel, Emma, Adelbert and Azelia. Mr. Cutler is engaged most of the time in Florida, where Mr. Adelbert Mead owns an orange grove. Oliver W. married three times; May 22, 1851, he married Mary E., daughter of Daniel Hartwell, of Harvard. They had four children, Warren H., born Dec. 18, 1853,

married Lizzie Blandon, December, 1877, died Jan. 29, 1879, Julian A., Emma A., and Nelson A., who died in infancy. Julian A., born Apr. 15, 1856, married Mary D. Emerson, Dec. 12, 1889, and settled in Watertown, where he is a noted physician. Dec. 24, 1881, Emma A. became the wife of Geo. Sumner Wright, son of Mr. Geo. C. Wright. Oliver W. Mead married for his second wife, Aug. 22, 1867, Susan A. Morrill, with whom he lived only a few months. Jan. 19, 1869, he married Lucy M. Emery, of Jaffrey, N. H. They have two sons, Hobart E., born July 4, 1870, and Louis Guy, born Oct. 3, 1873. The younger son, Guy, is fitted for college, and expects to enter on a college course, if his health will admit of it. Both sons reside at home in West Acton. Sarah Mead married Mr. Low, of Fitchburg, and they had twelve children. After her death her husband married again, and they were the parents of five more, making a family of seventeen children. Maria married Andrew Patch, of Littleton, and went to Harvard; of their four children only two are living. Mr. Patch died about twelve years ago, and about three years ago his widow went to Charlestown to reside with her son. Mary married John J. Lothrop, and lived in California until the death of her husband, a period of over thirty years; they had no children. Mrs. Lothrop is now living at West Acton. Anna married Charles Twitchell, of Fitchburg, and they are now living at West Acton. They have one son, Clarence, who resides at home. Varnum B. married Martha A. Keyes for his first wife, and for the second, Direxa E. Mead. He has three children by his second wife: George V., Fred S. and Adelbert F.

Adelbert, Oliver W. and Varnum Mead, carry on a large business at 35 North Market, and 35 Clinton Streets, Boston, under the firm name of A. and O. W. Mead and Co. I quote the following from "*Our Grange Homes*": "The location is considered one of the best in the city. They have cold storage capacity of 1,000 tons at West Acton, and they built the first large cold storage house in Massachusetts for holding commission goods. On the Boston premises is every necessary



appliance for the expeditions and efficient handling of all goods included in the commission trade, the utmost efficiency thus being secured.

“The ample opportunities given by the long period this house has been established have been well improved; a steady reputation has thus been acquired. The specialties are butter, poultry, eggs, cheese, fruits, etc., selling to all classes of customers. Two-thirds of the business comes from the West and Provinces.

“The business was established in 1844, known as A. and O. W. Mead, taking its present title in September, 1866, by which date it will be seen that this is, with a few exceptions, the oldest produce commission house in Boston.

“The early life of Adelbert was passed in agricultural pursuits. Young Mead was apprenticed to a shoemaker and learned the trade. In 1841 he began to sell shoes in Boston, and it became convenient to his neighbors and those along the route from Boxborough to entrust goods to him for sale on commission, and thus the present business was eventually established, he taking as his partner his brother, Oliver W. Mead. They at first had a large wagon, with a stand outside Quincy Market, and the business was conducted at the Market for nine years. It was then removed to 50 North Market Street, and to the present site in 1866. Mr. Mead is well known to the merchants as a man of unimpeachable character and high aims, and he owes his success in life to his pluck, push and ability. He has done his part by liberal and honorable methods to place the house in its present position in the trade. He is a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and, with Mr. O. W. Mead, also is a member of the Fruit Exchange. He is interested with his brothers in railroads, and also in live-stock in Wyoming.

“Mr. O. W. Mead conducted the farm until twenty-one years of age, and at an early age he evinced pleasure in intellectual pursuits, and on reaching his majority taught school until twenty-three years of age in Lunenburg and Littleton. He then connected himself with his brother in the present

business. He is a first-class business man in every sense of the word, and has always manifested marked financial ability. As an executive he possesses great power, and has carried system as near perfection as can be obtainable. He has been called upon to fill positions of trust, and is director in the First National Bank of Ayer, and trustee in the North Middlesex Savings Bank of the same town. He was also a director in the Chamber of Commerce, and was one of the charter members of the Produce Exchange.

“Mr. Varnum B. Mead was born on the farm: his life has been varied. When nineteen years old he went to the Sandwich Islands, where he remained five years; he then had a valuable business experience in Fitchburg, Montreal and Acton, shipping from Montreal and Acton to Boston, and mainly to his brothers. He came to this city in 1866, and was one year on salary in his brother's firm, and in 1867 was admitted to partnership. He has a large circle of warm personal friends. Among other positions of trust, he is president of the Franklin and Megantic Railroad, of Maine.”

#### WILLIAM MOORE.

Mr. William Moore, of Boxborough, is the son of William (1782-1836) and Sally (Hosmer) Moore (1793-1876), formerly of the part of Sudbury now called Wayland, and was born in that town, Feb. 23, 1818. His great-grandfather Loring was a minister, and one of his great-uncles, Timothy Moore, was waiter to General Nixon at one time, and afterwards married the general's daughter. His grandfather, on his mother's side, was Samuel Hosmer. Both his grandfather Moore and grandfather Hosmer, served throughout the Revolutionary war. Mr. Hosmer was only sixteen years of age when he entered the service. He was wounded at one time, having had a ball put through his arm, but his life was preserved. His grandfather, William Moore, in later years was accustomed to relate to his grandchildren many an incident or exploit of those Revolutionary days. Indeed, so much were these tales enjoyed by the

younger generation that it used to be a daily subject of controversy as to which of his grandsons should share his room at night and so obtain the privilege of listening to those exciting narrations. We give one or two of these incidents as related by his descendants. Wearied with marching, and being scantily supplied with rations upon one occasion, grandfather Moore, with several other soldiers, called at a house,—evidently inhabited by a tory,—and asked for something to eat. They would have paid for it, and were willing to do so, but the request was denied by the lady of the house. They determined, however, to have food before going farther, so, as the oven or bakehouse was built outside the main dwelling, they waited, watched their opportunity and took from it a well-browned baking of pies, with which they satisfied their hunger. At another time, just after a battle, as Mr. Moore was passing along the battle-field, he came across a British soldier who was severely wounded, and in extreme agony. “I will give you my gold watch if you will only put an end to my life,” said the loyalist to the patriot soldier. “No,” said Mr. Moore. “I cannot do that; you must keep your watch.” He would not strike a *fallen* enemy.

Mr. William Moore, the grandson, came to this town about fourteen years ago. He married Miss Harriet Willard, daughter of Ithamar Willard, of Harvard, for his first wife, and four children were born to them, Seraphina, Francis W., Arianna and Albert G. Francis W. died in the War of the Rebellion; Albert G. is married, and with his wife and family resides in Stow. The oldest daughter, Seraphina, married Mr. Augustine Whitcomb, of Boxborough, and died Nov. 25, 1881, aged 41 years, 1 month, 25 days. Arianna married Mr. Frank Lund, and is living in Lowell. They have two daughters, Carrie A., and Hattie, both occupying responsible positions in that city. Mrs. Moore died Jan. 1, 1879, and is buried in Stow. Mr. Moore afterwards married Miss Anna Mead, of Boxborough, a most estimable lady, kind-hearted and ever ready to help, with word, act, or sympathy.

The late Deacon Silas Hosmer, of Acton, was a brother of Mr. Moore's mother. Mr. Samuel Hosmer had a family of ten

children, of whom one, Abner Hosmer, of Lawrence, is still living at the advanced age of eighty-two years. Mr. Moore was associated with Mr. Simon Hartwell and Dea. M. E. Wood, on the board of assessors, for six or seven years, from '80 to '88.

#### JOSEPH H. ORENDORFF.

Mr. Joseph H. Orendorff has been a resident of this town about twelve years. He was born Jan. 26, 1845, in the southern part of Pennsylvania, in Adams County,—named in honor of John Adams, second President of the United States,—only a few miles from its capital, Gettysburg, and within view of that town become so famous in American history. His early years were passed on the farm, varied by attendance at the district school only during the winter season. At the age of seventeen he enlisted in the Federal army, where he served nine months in the 165th Reg't. P. V. M., receiving an honorable discharge, July 28, 1863, at Gettysburg. In November of that year, he entered as teacher the school where he had formerly been a pupil, and, at the close of the four months' term, began attendance at the Normal school in Gettysburg; thus, as teacher in winter, and pupil in summer, the educational processes alternated for the next two years. In 1866, failing health,—an effect of the hardships and privations endured while in the army,—warned him that a change of occupation was desirable, and so the life of study was put away from him, and the summer seasons given to out-door employments, although the winters as before were devoted to teaching, until April 1, 1870. At that time he accepted a position as book-keeper and collector for the firm of Goodwin Brothers, Hardware Manufacturers, Philadelphia, which he held until March, 1873, when once more realizing that he must turn his attention to a more active business life, in July of the same year he entered into an agreement to solicit subscribers for the *Daily Advertiser* and various other periodicals. A year later, or in June, 1874, this engagement terminated, and on account of the hard times arising from the panic of 1873, no permanent occupation was undertaken for nearly five years;

then, Apr. 15, 1879, he took charge of the old Williston farm in Boxborough,—the property at that time of Dr. James McDonald, of Boston,—which he afterwards purchased, and where he now resides.

August 18, 1880, Mr. Orendorff married Miss Lucy Ellis Allen, daughter of Samuel F. and Hannah (Ellis) Allen, of Dedham, Mass. Mrs. Orendorff was born in that town, June 7, 1857, attended the district school until thirteen years of age, and afterwards, Rev. C. S. Locke's private school for four years. She began teaching while a pupil in Mr. Locke's school, having charge of certain classes, while still continuing her own studies. After completing her course there, she returned a year later and taught through the fall term, then, in April, 1876, went to Dover to take charge of a school, after which she returned to Dedham and taught four years until the time of her marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Orendorff have two children, Jennie A., and Harold E. They have always taken an interest in the affairs of the town. Mr. Orendorff was chosen President of the centennial celebration in 1883, was elected a member of the board of selectmen for three consecutive years, and has served in other town offices.

#### CHRISTOPHER PAGE.

Capt. Christopher Page came to Boxborough from Bedford, where he formerly resided. He married Lydia Wetherbee (daughter of Simeon Wetherbee, Mrs. Silas Hoar's grandfather), and they were the parents of seven children: Mary, Lydia, Christopher, Dio Oratio, Sylvanus, Ann Maria and Mary Foster. The oldest daughter died Nov. 24, 1826, when eighteen years of age. The wife, Lydia, and the remaining three daughters all died in 1829, of dysentery, within a period of twelve days. Mary Foster died July 29, when four years of age; the mother, July 31; Lydia, Aug. 8, at the age of eighteen; and Ann Maria, Aug. 9, at the age of eight years,—a singularly sad record. Only two of the family are now living, Christopher and Dio Oratio.

Mr. Christopher Page, born Dec. 16, 1815, is married and has two children. He resides in New York at the present time. He still visits his native town in summer, making his stay with Mr. and Mrs. Priest.

Dio Oratio, born Dec. 29, 1817, married Susan L. Barnard of Harvard. The Page family once occupied the house where Mr. Jerome Priest now lives, and Dio Oratio's sons were born there. Albert Horatio, the eldest, born Feb. 21, 1840, is proprietor of a paper-mill in Holyoke, and carries on an extensive business. His income is said to be \$100 a day. He married the daughter of the former mill-owner, and has three children, two young lady daughters and one son, twelve years of age. He is a very important and influential man in church affairs in Holyoke, and recently, generously gave several thousand dollars toward the erection of a Congregational church in that place. Dio Oratio Page and his son have always expressed a deep interest in their native town, and often visit the old homestead on the hill, and among the hills of Boxborough. The father has many times expressed the desire to be laid to rest at last in the little cemetery near his former home.

Henry Augustine Page, the second son, born Mar. 20, 1841, is a physician of note in the State of Pennsylvania. Seven or eight years ago, the newspapers spoke in the highest terms of the valuable services rendered by Dr. Henry A. Page upon the occasion of a terrible railway accident. His untiring efforts to relieve and save the sufferers were rewarded by the gift of a gold-headed cane.

Emory Barnard, the youngest son, born Dec. 11, 1844, is a resident of Leominster, Mass.

Capt. Christopher Page was chairman of the board of selectmen in 1830 and 1831.

#### THE PATCH FAMILY.

The farm where Mr. and Mrs. O. Ewings now reside has been in possession of the Patch family for at least five generations. Dea. Abram Patch, who married Hannah Herriek,

owned it in "Ye olden time." Afterward it came into possession of his son, Jonathan. Isaac Patch, son of Jonathan, next occupied it. He married Jane Butler and they were the parents of three children, Nathan, Benjamin, who died in Cincinnati, O., and Lucy, who is buried beside her mother in the old cemetery in Littleton. Nathan Patch married Lucretia Hartwell, a cousin of Squire Cephas Hartwell, of Boxborough, and lived and died upon the Wright place, adjoining the Patch farm. Nathan and Lucretia (Hartwell) Patch were the parents of five children: Nathan Hartwell, Lucretia Ann, Benjamin Henry, who died in infancy, Obadiah Kendall and Benjamin Henry. The two last named are the only surviving members of the family, and at the present time are residents of South Acton. Nathan Patch was school committee, selectman, assessor and overseer of poor, during the years 1835 to 1838.

Isaac Patch married for his second wife, Hannah (Wetherbee) Cobleigh, widow of John Cobleigh and a sister of Oliver Wetherbee's father. Their two children were Jonathan W. and Cynthia. Jonathan W. married Roselma J. Tarbell, born March 23, 1819,—a native of Vermont but a resident of Lowell at the time of her marriage,—and made his home upon the farm of his ancestors. Of their five children,—Charles Henry, Francis Abbot, Lucy Ann, George Albert and Ellen Loretta,—four died in early years. Francis Abbot, born 1844, married Miss Sarah S. Lawrence, a teacher of Harvard, Feb. 25, 1869, and they reside upon the old homestead farm, but in a new and beautiful residence which he has recently erected thereon.

Mr. Patch was a teacher for several years. In 1865, he taught his last school in Harvard, Mass., assisted by Miss Sarah S. Lawrence, whom he afterward married. Immediately after the close of this school, he determined to make a mercantile business his life work and in the spring of this same year started for Boston, alone and among strangers, to seek a position. After travelling through the principal streets for three days, soliciting a position, he happened to call upon a firm by name of Metcalf and Papendick, dealers in upholstery goods, who hired him at a salary of three dollars per week. He

managed to live on this amount and pay his board till the fall of the same year, when he was sent to New York to work at an advanced salary in a branch store owned by the same concern. Here he remained till the firm retired from business in 1870, when he was recommended to F. M. Holmes and Co., of Boston, manufacturers of furniture, with whom he remained as salesman until 1878, serving both in their Boston and New York stores. In 1878, Mr. Holmes retired and Mr. L. S. Gould and Mr. Patch succeeded to the business, which they continued until 1888, when Mr. Patch bought out his partner and continued alone until June 1, 1890, when in consequence of poor health he sold out and retired to the farm on which he was born, where he and his wife are enjoying the quiet of country life. He was chosen superintendent of schools in Boxborough the present year (1891).

Jonathan W. Patch died Jan. 30, 1853, and is buried with the Patch families in Littleton. After his death, his widow married Orman Ewings, a native of Vermont, and with her husband continued to live upon the Patch farm, where they now reside. Mr. Ewings had two children by a former marriage, Luther H. and Almeda. Luther H. served in the War of the Rebellion three years, was wounded in the service, and since that time has resided in Texas. He is married and has two children, Robert and Minnie. Almeda married Nathaniel P. Prue and settled on the John Cobleigh farm—now the residence of Willis H. Gooch. She died Aug. 27, 1874. Mr. Prue died Apr. 9, 1877, and their daughter, Grace M., lives with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ewings, who have had the care of her from infancy.

Orman and Roselma J. Ewings were the parents of two children: Emma C., who died in infancy, and Henrietta A., who resides at home. Nov. 19, 1884, Miss Ella Abbott, daughter of a sister of Mrs. Ewings and who has been an inmate of the family from childhood, married Arthur C. Whitney, of West Acton, where his family now reside, and went to St. Louis to live. They have one daughter, Louise Whitney.



Cynthia Patch, born June 26, 1811, married John Chaffin, Apr. 21, 1833, and after a three years' residence on the Patch farm removed to the Chaffin place in Acton, where three generations of Chaffins have lived and died, and the fourth is now living. They had two children, Hannah, and John Francis, who died in 1848 at the age of two years. Hannah, born Mar. 16, 1834, married Antoine Bulette and resides with her husband upon the Chaffin place in Acton. They have no children of their own, but two foster children gladden the household: Caroline A. Jewett, who has lived in the family thirty-five years, having been taken by them when five or six years of age, and Frank L. Wyman, the son of a cousin of Mrs. Bulette, who was born on the farm and has always lived with the family.

#### AMASA A. RICHARDSON.

Mr. Amasa Allen Richardson is the son of Allen and Ruth (Wheeler) Richardson, of Acton, Mass., who were the parents of five daughters and two sons. At the age of ten years, he went to Vermont to live and remained there about twenty-six years. He has been in possession of the farm where he now resides since 1847, a period of nearly forty-four years. He purchased the land, which was a part of the old Taylor place, of Mr. Stevens Hayward, son of Paul and Lucy, and brother of the late Dea. Joseph Hayward. He married Miss Huldah Woodward, daughter of Elijah and Rhoda (Austin) Woodward, of Landsgrove, Vt., Nov. 1842, and came to Boxborough, with his wife and oldest son, then two and one-half years old, in 1847; but as there were no buildings on his farm at that time, he made his home for the first three years upon the Burroughs place. In the mean time, having erected the buildings which he now occupies, he removed in 1850 to his new possession with his family. One of the barns upon the premises is the most ancient of any in town, having been built by Major Taylor over a hundred years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Amasa A. Richardson were the parents of five children, Austin A., Lewis W., Moses F., who died at the

age of two years and five months, Oren A., and Ada L., the youngest child and only daughter, who died when ten months of age.

Mr. Austin A. Richardson, born March 18, 1844, married Miss Mary Withington, daughter of Josiah Withington, of Harvard, and settled in Acton in 1866. They have three children, Alfred L., Ida L.,—who married David Millet, Oct. 18, 1890, and settled in Athol,—and Clara. Mr. Austin A. Richardson has been section hand upon the Fitchburg railroad for seventeen years, where he is still employed. He served in the late War of the Rebellion for nine months, nearly sacrificing his life there, but was finally discharged in the winter of 1862, and sent home to recover from an illness to which the deprivations and exposures of a soldier's life had reduced him.

Mr. Lewis W. Richardson married Miss Augusta S. Howard of Windham, Vt., May, 1877, settled upon the home farm, and with his father is engaged in farming upon a large scale. Their oldest child, Luella Abbie, died when two years and ten months of age, and they have five children living: Harlan L., Charles H., Sarah A., Alvin W. and George A. Mr. Lewis W. Richardson has been a member of the School Board, at different times, eight years.

Mr. Oren A. Richardson married Miss Nellie M. Willard, daughter of Rev. W. A. P. Willard of Stow, Mass., Dec. 11, 1881, and settled in Hudson, Mass., where he follows the occupation of a carpenter. They are the parents of two children, Earle A. and Edith M.

Mr. Amasa A. Richardson's father, Allen Richardson, of Acton, was one of the men who marched to Boston in the beginning of the war of 1812, at the call of his country, and remained there several months. He was in no engagement.

Mr. Amasa A. Richardson, accompanied by Mr. Chas. H. Burroughs, went to California in 1853, and remained there four years, which time was passed in many and varied fortunes. Mr. Richardson once related a little incident which occurred on the way out, while waiting for the transfer of baggage at the Isthmus. "We were very thirsty," said he, "but upon look-

ing about us for water, found we could obtain it only by paying ten cents a drink, which we did." In the recent moist New England seasons wherein water has been so abundant and free, it would seem almost like criminal extortion to exact ten cents for a draught of the liquid element. I recall the remark with which he closed a recital of anecdotes of that period so fruitful in experiences. "The story of those four years in California would make a book of itself. I was often in danger, yet as often escaped, and I believe a kind Providence kept me."

Mr. and Mrs. Richardson have been indefatigable workers: very few have seen their days and months and years as closely occupied as have these two. They have been active members of the Congregational church in Boxborough for over forty years, and Mr. Lewis W. Richardson and his wife are also members of that church. Mrs. Richardson is a member of the Ladies' Circle and Woman's Missionary Society connected with the church, and is ever ready and willing to labor for the advancement of their interests.

#### DR. DANIEL ROBINS.

The name of Dr. Daniel Robins will doubtless arouse pleasant memories in the hearts of many of the older residents of the town. Here among these quiet hills he followed the calling of a country doctor for many years, and made his home upon the place now owned and occupied by Mr. J. H. Orendorff. Dr. Robins was he of whom, in 1792, the records said, "Voted that the doctor sit in the fore-seat of the front." He was selectman and town clerk for several years. Descendants of this worthy man are about us still.

## CHAPTER XIII.

## THE STONE FAMILY—TAYLOR FAMILY.

## PHINEHAS STONE.

(From "History of Weare, N. H.")

SAMUEL STONE, born in Hartford, England, came to America in 1633; settled in Cambridge, Mass., as one of its first clergymen, and soon went with others and founded Hartford, Conn. Simon, brother of Samuel, came to America in ship *Increase* in 1633; settled in Groton, Mass. Gregory, brother of Samuel and Simon, came to America in 1633, in ship *Increase*; born in Hartford, England, 1590; settled first in Watertown, moved to Cambridge in 1638, and built his homestead on five acres of land on westerly side of Garden Street, between Botanic garden and Concord Avenue. He died Nov. 30, 1672. John, first child of Gregory, born in Hartford, England, 1619, came to America with his father in 1633; settled in Sudbury, afterwards Framingham. In 1656, he purchased from the Indians land at falls of Sudbury River, and owned the larger part of Saxonyville. He was a free man at Cambridge in 1665, and representative in 1682-3. He died at homestead in Cambridge, May 5, 1683.

Simon Stone, Jr., born in Groton, 1665, married Miss Sarah Stone, 1687. Their children were Simon, born 1689, and Joseph, born 1691. Joseph Stone married Mary Prescott, of Westford, May 9, 1728, whose father owned and worked an iron forge. Mr. Stone died Sept. 10, 1767. Of their fifteen children, Thankful, the youngest daughter, born 1754, married Mr. Harwood, grandfather of J. A. Harwood, of Littleton. Silas, the ninth child, married Eunice Fairbanks, of Harvard, Jan. 20, 1767, and to them were born ten children: Lucy,



*Phineas Stone*



born 1768, Eunice, born 1770, Sally (1771-1804), Silas, born 1773, Phinehas (1775-1852), Betsy Fairbanks (1777-1852), Hannah, born 1779, Jasper (1781-1858), Joseph (1783-1822), and Lois, born 1786. Phinehas, born in Templeton, Mass., July 3, 1775, moved with his father's family in 1779 to Harvard, where they remained five years, afterward making their home in Boxborough, where they resided sixteen years. He moved to Weare, N. H., in 1803, where he built an oil-mill \* for the manufacture of linseed oil. A village in the immediate vicinity took the name of Oil Mill village, and retains that name to the present time. He kept store north of Emerson bridge and at East Weare. May 3, 1808, he

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\* Oil-mills were plenty in New England about the beginning of the present century. Linseed and pumpkin-seed oils were manufactured in them. Phinehas Stone came from Massachusetts, where he had owned one, to Weare in 1803. July 12, in company with Simon Houghton, he leased from Benjamin Gale a water-power to run an oil-mill for twenty years, and soon built our oil-mill. Colonel Stone operated it but a short time, when it passed into the hands of other parties, and eventually was owned by Christopher Simons.

It was situated on the south-west side of the highway, south of the bridge, a two-story building thirty by forty feet, the flume on the east side extending half the length. There were two entrances, one to the second story at the north-east corner by a flight of steps over the flume, the other to the lower story near the south-east corner. There were stairs inside from the south-west corner to the second story.

The simple machinery, strong<sup>ly</sup> constructed, was, first, to crack the seed, second, to grind it, third, to warm the meal, and fourth, to press it. The machinery for cracking the seed consisted of two iron rollers, ten inches long and eight inches in diameter, fitted to iron shafting placed horizontally; the rolls, smoothly finished, ran so nearly together that only a sheet of the thinnest paper could pass between them. A spout so closely fitted to the rolls that not a seed could escape conducted the seed to them, from the room above, where it was broken passing between them. It was then shovelled on to a bed-stone close by, about nine feet square. Through the centre of this stone stood a perpendicular oaken shaft about twenty inches in diameter, securely fastened to a heavy timber at the top and revolved by a water-wheel below. Through this shaft above the bed-stone was a wooden axle about seven feet long, and at each end was a mill-stone about five feet in diameter, fourteen inches thick. Behind each stone wheel was a follower to keep the meal in place, and they, going round and round about twenty times a minute, soon ground out a pressing. The meal was then put into a thick sheet-iron cylinder, which was made to revolve several times a minute over a slow fire. When properly warmed, it was put into canvas bags, and these placed in the press box, and power applied by an iron screw about four inches in diameter, turned by strong machinery connected with the water-wheel. The oil, like cider, ran down into a tub from which it was dipped into barrels. The flax-cake was taken out of the press, chopped into small pieces with an axe, again placed under the great stone wheels, ground into meal and sold to be fed to the farmers' stock. The oil was sold for about \$1.50 a gallon, and hundreds of barrels were made each year.

The raising of flax was a great industry before the time of cotton-factories, and flaxseed used to be taken at all the stores as barter and sold in turn to the oil-mills. Stone, and after him Simons, used to have great bins of it, more than five hundred bushels, stored in the second story of their oil-mill at a time. Then the mill ran more than two-thirds of the year, in 1835, but a few bushels of seed could be obtained, the mill ran only two or three weeks, and in 1836 the business ceased. Linseed as well as pumpkin-seed oil found a ready market in those days, and the business was profitable.

married Hannah Jones, a native of Londonderry, who was born April 27, 1783, and taught school at Oil Mill village. Their eight children were all born at Weare; viz., Sarah, Phinehas J., Silas, Josiah, who died when an infant, Amos, Jasper, Joseph, and Jonathan. In 1824, he removed with his family to Charlestown, Mass.; there he kept a grocery store; died at Charlestown, Jan. 9, 1852, aged seventy-seven years, and was buried in the tomb which he had built the year before at Boxborough. His wife died in Charlestown, Dec. 17, 1867, aged eighty-four years seven months twenty days, and is laid beside him. Phinehas Stone was captain of a company of New Hampshire detached militia of the first regiment under Lieut.-Col. N. Fisk, in the war of 1812, went from Weare on or about Sept. 12, 1814, did actual service at Portsmouth, N. H., and was honorably discharged. He was drafted at Goffstown for three months, continued to be captain for some time and was subsequently chosen colonel of the regiment. (1818.)

The daughter, Sarah, was born Mar. 18, 1809, married Seth W. Lewis, of Claremont, N. H., in 1834, and died in Charlestown, Mass., Apr. 27, 1872, aged sixty-three years. Her husband, Seth W. Lewis, died July 1, 1872, aged sixty-six years. They were buried in Woodlawn cemetery.

#### PHINEHAS J. STONE.

Phinehas Jones, second child and eldest son of Hannah (Jones) and Col. Phinehas Stone, was born in Weare, N. H., May 23, 1810, where he lived until November, 1824, when he removed with his family to Charlestown, Mass., which has ever since been his adopted home. He married Ann Maria Lindsey, June 20, 1841. She died Sept. 6, 1851. Joseph Stone, fourth child of Phinehas J. and Ann M. (Lindsey) Stone, was born at Charlestown, Mass., Jan. 4, 1848, graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1868 as Civil Engineer, and took the degree of S. B., entered the office of William H. Thompson, Boston, July, 1868, as mill engineer, became mill engineer for the Manchester Print Works, Man-



chester, N. H., in 1870, and was appointed agent, Feb. 1, 1874. On the reorganization of the company as the Manchester Mills, in April, 1874, he was continued as agent until Sept. 30, 1880. Oct. 1, 1880, he was appointed superintendent of the Lower Pacific Mills, Lawrence, Mass., devoted to the manufacture of worsted goods. He was married Jan. 12, 1870, to Lillias Blaikie, only daughter of Rev. Alexander Blaikie, D.D., of Boston, who died, without children, in Dedham, Mass., Dec. 26, 1873. He was again married, Feb. 10, 1880, to Minnie Harris, eldest daughter of Horatio Harris, Esq., of Roxbury, by whom he had a son, Harris Stone, who was born Dec. 4, 1880, and died Aug. 12, 1881, also a daughter, Marion Stone, born Oct. 14, 1882. He lived at home with his father until 1870, when, after marriage, he moved to Dedham, where he lived until Feb. 1, 1874, when he moved to Manchester, N. H.

I quote from *The Bunker Hill Times*, of Aug. 24, 1889, with regard to another son of Mr. Stone: "On Sunday morning at 3.20 o'clock, Phineas J. Stone, Jr., passed away at the Isles of Shoals, terminating a life, the closing years of which were marred by almost uninterrupted illness. Well known and liked by every old resident of the district, his death, though not unheralded, was an event which called forth universal sorrow and sympathy. He was born in Charlestown, Jan. 28, 1842. In youth his constitution was far from robust, but he pursued his studies without interruption until he was graduated with honor from the High School. His delicate health prevented his attempting a collegiate course, and he prepared himself for a business life. His qualifications for a commercial career were remarkably good. Affable and honest, it was a pleasure to transact business with him, while his remarkable memory was the wonder of all who knew him. His nature was refined and artistic, and his passionate love of music was evinced even to the last moments of his life. He was of a hopeful and merry disposition, and while on his death-bed strove to cheer his attendants and friends, allowing no complaints or murmurs to escape him. His charity was spontaneous but discreet. He

could not witness suffering without attempting to alleviate it. Many instances of charitable deeds done by him have come to light, and that he is sincerely mourned by many who have received aid at his hands in days of trouble is the best eulogy that could have been pronounced upon his life.

“Upon attaining his majority, Mr. Stone was filled with the patriotic desire to serve his country at the front. In spite of his feeble constitution nothing could deter him from entering the service of the government: finally, as he was pronounced unfit for the infantry arm, which he had proposed entering, a commission in the navy as paymaster was secured for him. He was attached to the gunboat *Hastings*, on the Mississippi River, and afterwards to the Volunteer. He left the service of the United States at the close of the war, broken down in health, but after an illness, which with its convalescence confined him for a year, he was able to accept the chief clerkship of the internal revenue collector's office, his father at that time being the incumbent of that office. This he held until the abolishment of the office, when he became chief clerk of the Five Cents Savings Bank. He also represented several of the most reliable fire insurance companies, as their local agent. In 1876 and 1877 he represented Ward Three in the Common Council of the city of Boston. He was also a member of King Solomon's Lodge of Masons.

“Five years ago his condition became so alarming that he was ordered by his physicians to pass the winter in a warmer clime. In obedience to their decree he spent two winters at Nassau. While on his last visit to this island he was thrown from his carriage, and his spine injured. This accident increased his debility, and he soon returned home, to remain there save for a few weeks of summer, when he was carried to some resort not far from Boston. It was during the annual outing that his disorder culminated in death. His remains were brought to Boston, and funeral services held over them Tuesday afternoon. The interment was at Mount Auburn.”

Phineas Jones Stone commenced business in the West India goods trade in 1834, and by untiring industry and perse-

verance laid the foundation of his success in after life. He retired from this occupation in 1851. He was selectman of Charlestown in 1839 and 1840; member of the house of representatives in 1840, 1856, 1862 and 1863; and, after Charlestown became a city, he was several years elected to the common council, and was president of the same. He was also upon the board of aldermen. From 1856 to 1859, he was inspector of the Massachusetts State prison. It was during this time that Deputy Warden Walker and Warden Tenny were murdered, and Mr. Stone took charge of the prison for six weeks, pending the appointment of new officials by the governor, displaying great executive ability, giving courage to the officers under him, and keeping in order the prisoners, excited and almost demoralized by this double act of blood. "Will there be services in the chapel this morning?" he was anxiously asked after the murder of Warden Tenny. "Most certainly," he replied, and providing arms and ammunition for each officer, gave orders for their immediate use in case of any indications of a revolt.

He was mayor of Charlestown in 1862, 1863, and 1864; was instrumental in raising and forming several companies for the defence of the country during the Rebellion, who did active service in the army of the North. During his administration was completed the introduction of water from Mystic Pond, yielding an ample supply for the inhabitants, not only of Charlestown, but several other surrounding towns.

He was United States assessor, sixth Massachusetts district, from 1867 to 1873, when the office was abolished by act of Congress.

He was one of the original movers for the act of incorporation, authorizing the improvement of about one hundred acres of flats, lying between the north and south channels of the Mystic River, upon which today there is a taxable property of more than \$1,000,000, and which eventually will increase to many millions, as it is the terminus of the Northern railroads to the deep water of Boston harbor.

He was elected in 1854, at the organization of the Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank, its president, a position he holds at the present time (1891). This bank is a highly successful institution, with a deposit, today, of upwards of \$4,800,000.

He is a director in the Charlestown Gas Company, also in the Mutual Protection Fire Insurance Company.

A man of commanding presence, loyal to his country in the hour of its peril, of sterling integrity of character, upright and honorable in all his dealings with his brother man, sympathetic with distress, his hand open to relieve suffering without ostentation or publicity, he is an honor, both to his native State and the one of his adoption.\*

Silas Stone, second son of Phinehas and Hannah, was born Sept. 30, 1812. When a young man he worked in New York City at baking; from there he went to his native town, Weare, and kept store: from there he went to Charlestown, and from there to Stoneham, Mass., where he died, March 2, 1842, aged 29 years, 5 months, 2 days. He married Sarah Ann Hall, June 8, 1838. They had one son who died June 22, 1841, aged 22 months, and is buried in the tomb at Boxborough.

#### AMOS STONE.

Amos Stone, fourth son of Phinehas and Hannah, was born Aug. 16, 1816. He was educated in the Charlestown free schools. At the age of fifteen he went into his father's grocery store, and remained there until he was twenty-one years of age; he then bought his first parcel of land, which he now owns, and commenced a real estate business: built and sold houses, and has continued in that business, more or less, down to the present time, until now he has become one of the largest real-estate holders in Middlesex County. Not infrequently legal questions arose in reference to titles and boundaries, and it became necessary to appeal to the law: he always prepared his own cases, employed the most eminent counselors to manage them, and never lost a case in court.

Charlestown became a city in 1847, when he was elected its first city treasurer and collector of taxes, and held that office

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\* Phinehas J. Stone died Aug. 13, 1891.



James Stirling



until 1854. In that year he was elected treasurer of the county of Middlesex, and held the office until January, 1886, when he declined a re-election. In 1854 the Charlestown Five Cents Savings Bank was incorporated. He took an active and leading part in its organization, and was elected one of its trustees and its first treasurer, and now holds both positions. It has proved one of the most prosperous and successful banks in the commonwealth. For more than ten years, he, as treasurer, with the assistance of the president, performed all the labor of the savings bank without any compensation to either. In 1861, the Mutual Protection Fire Insurance Company was incorporated and organized, in which he took a leading part, and was chosen one of its directors, and soon succeeded to the presidency, which position he now holds. In 1863, he was elected a director of the Monument National Bank, and still retains that position. He was one of the original shareholders of the Mystic River corporation, a large landed company, and for more than twenty years has been its clerk and treasurer, and is now president of the Ocean Terminal Railroad Dock and Elevator Company.

In the several positions as treasurer, he has administered the duties with signal ability. His attention to business, great executive ability and physical endurance, enabled him to work sixteen hours per day, and to perform all the duties in the several offices that he held at the same time, and during the thirty years he held the office of county treasurer, he never employed a clerk or assistant.

In politics he was originally a Democrat, voted for Franklin Pierce for president: then he became a Republican, and voted for John C. Fremont, and has continued in the party since. When the Rebellion was begun he was one of the first to come to the support of the government, and was one of the twenty-one persons who paid the expense of fitting out the first three companies from Charlestown to go to Washington to defend the capitol; although exempt from draft, by reason of age, he sent the first representative recruit from Charlestown at his own expense, and contributed hundreds of dollars during the

continuance of the war. Early in life he joined the Free Masons and is quite prominent in the Masonic order, having taken the thirty-second degree, and is now treasurer of two Masonic organizations. He remained a single man until after he was fifty years of age, when, June 13, 1871, he married Sarah Elizabeth Mills. They removed in 1873 to Everett, Mass., where they have a beautiful and pleasant home.

Jasper Stone, fifth son of Phinehas and Hannah, was born Aug. 26, 1818; married (1) Elizabeth Ann Gray, Oct. 19, 1845, who died Feb. 17, 1847, aged 25 years, 10 months, leaving one son; (2) Mary Patten Swett, May 6, 1849. They have one son and five daughters. They reside in Charlestown, where Mr. Stone carried on the jewelry business for about forty years. He was on the board of aldermen in 1873.

Joseph Stone, sixth son of Phinehas and Hannah, was born Aug. 12, 1820. He kept grocery store at Charlestown about three years; studied law in the office of Abel Cushing, Boston; died of consumption at Charlestown, Jan. 28, 1846, aged 25 years, 5 months, 17 days, and is buried in the tomb at Boxborough.

#### JONATHAN STONE.

Jonathan Stone, the seventh son of Phinehas and Hannah, was born in Weare, N. H., Apr. 29, 1823; was engaged in the grocery and provision business in Charlestown; built, owned and let houses and stores; was elected and served on the common council in 1872; was elected mayor of Charlestown in 1873. He was the last mayor of Charlestown, it being annexed to Boston, Jan. 1, 1874. He was married twice; Dec. 29, 1857, he married Sarah Rebecca, daughter of Abraham and Caroline S. Andrews, of Groton, Mass., who died Feb. 17, 1862, leaving one daughter, Sarah Lizzie, and a son, John Henry. July 23, 1863, he married Mary Louisa Andrews, a sister of his first wife. They have one daughter, Carrie Louisa. Mr. Stone built a fine residence in Revere, Mass., on land formerly owned by Dr. Tuckerman, on the rise of ground west from the corner of Broadway and Aladdin Streets, where he moved June 21, 1876, and now resides.





*Jonathan Stone*



[From items compiled by Miss Mary Taylor.]

Mr. Silas Stone built the house that Mr. Philip Cunningham now occupies, about the close of the last century. He left Groton, his native place, took his bride and settled in Templeton. His wife, Eunice, was a daughter of Phineas and Sarah Fairbanks, of Harvard. Mr. Stone first met Miss Fairbanks at an evening party, and it was love at first sight. Miss Fairbanks was a poetess, possessed of great personal beauty and loveliness of character. They spent their declining years in the home which he had built, living to a great age, Mr. Stone being eighty-six and Mrs. Stone eighty-five at time of death. Three of their daughters married and went to New York, which at that time was the far West, requiring an eight days' journey. Eunice married Jonas Faulkner and lived in Rindge, N. H. Betsey Fairbanks Stone married Capt. Oliver Taylor, Aug. 12, 1800, and ever after lived in Boxborough. Silas, young, active, enterprising, went to Baltimore and was afterward unheard from. Jasper lived in Boston for a few years, but after his brother Joseph's death returned to the old homestead and cared for his parents the remainder of their lives. He married Mary Babcock, of Weston, Mass. He died when seventy-six years of age, and his widow lived to the age of ninety-three. Jasper Stone was a man interested in town business (having represented his district in the Legislature), in the anti-slavery cause, in the church,—a good neighbor and kind friend.

Joseph Stone, the fourth of these brothers, born in Harvard, Dec. 17, 1783, died at thirty-eight. He was a young man of great promise, prepossessing in personal appearance, of great energy of character, and intellectual attainments. In society he was the leading man: as a townsman, almost every important office was laid upon him: as a teacher he was active and faithful. He was repeatedly sent to the Legislature, appointed a Justice of the Peace, and a deacon of the Congregational church. Few men of his age have filled so many high offices so faithfully and so well. The following is a poem composed by Mrs. Eunice Stone on the death of her son, Joseph, who died Nov. 4, 1822:

November fourth, that mournful day  
 I shall remember long,  
 When pale relentless Death came in  
 And took my darling son.

While friends stood weeping all around,  
 My heart was pierced with pain ;—  
 Nor will that sweet and pleasant voice  
 E'er cheer my heart again.

While angel bands stood 'round the bed,  
 And filled the solemn room,  
 A smile of joy shone on his face :—  
 They then conduct him home.

By faith I traced his wondrous way  
 Where the sweet angels sing ;  
 And thought how loud the harps would play  
 When Joseph entered in.

And is he gone to realms above ?  
 Dear Jesus, he is thine ;  
 Freely I cast him on thy arms,—  
 They're sweeter arms than mine.

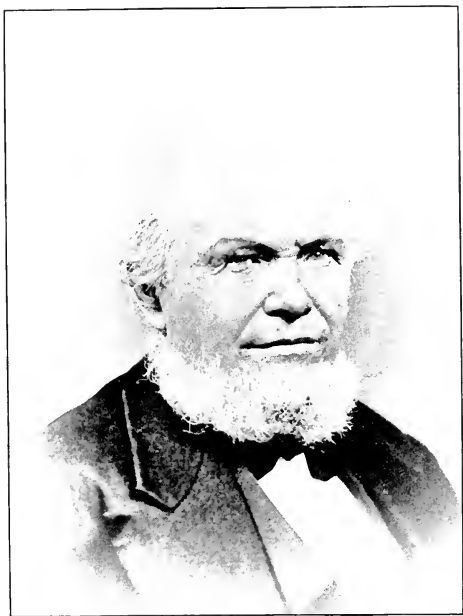
Prepare my soul to follow too,  
 'Mid all the glorious ranks,  
 And hail my dear belovèd son,  
 On Canaan's flowery banks.

He married Sarah W. Stowe, of Hillsborough, N. H., an aunt of Benjamin S. Hager. Mr. and Mrs. Silas Stone made one trip to New York to visit their two remaining daughters, one, Mrs. Lucy Mallory, having died and left a little girl. This child, whose name was Sally M., they brought back with them, and their home became hers until she married Aaron Fiske, of Natick, Mar. 29, 1831, where she now lives in the pleasant home of her daughter, Mrs. Bruce.

#### THE TAYLOR FAMILY.

Miss Mary Taylor furnishes the following sketch :—

In the latter part of the seventeenth century, three brothers by the name of Taylor sailed from England to America, making their homes within a mile and a half of each other. Ephraim settled on the place where C. H. Burroughs now lives, Phinehas on what is known as the Samuel Hosmer farm, and John



Vernon Taylor



on the Captain Taylor place. His son John, born 1697, lived and died on the same place. His children were John, born 1719, Jabe, born 1722, Solomon, born 1724, and Hannah, who married Elijah Willis, Dec. 3, 1760. In 1745 Solomon married Mary MacLaughlin, who was born on the water. Their children were Molly, born 1746, married Frederick Walcott, of Stow, Mar. 29, 1761; John, born 1748; Tabathy, born Nov. 13, 1749; Lydia, born Feb. 10, 1752; Oliver, born Mar. 30, 1754, married Betty Wetherbee, who was born Feb. 11, 1753 — the daughter of Phinehas and Betty Wetherbee, and granddaughter of Daniel Wetherbee;— Solomon, born Aug. 19, 1756, married Anna Whitman, Mar. 7, 1777; and Betty, born June 3, 1758, married Levi Wheeler, Feb. 3, 1776, and settled in Boxborough.

The descendants of Lydia live in Canaan, N. H. John enlisted in the Revolutionary War, where he remained through the seven years' struggle. Oliver remained on the farm with his father after his marriage, and his five children, Oliver, Hezekiah, Jonathan, Betty and Lovell were born there. Hezekiah married Sally Wetherbee, of Harvard. He was in consumption and was married on his bed. Jonathan married Lucy Whitcomb and lived and died in Chesterfield, N. H. Betty married Oliver Mead, lived a few years in Chesterfield, N. H., and then returned to Boxborough, living and dying upon the place now in possession of Walter Mead. Lovell married Mercy Rand and settled in Stow. Oliver lived in the house with his father, working on the farm or making barrels, as best suited their convenience. Aug. 12, 1800, he married Betsey Fairbanks Stone. Their children were Lucy, Betsey, Franklin, Nancy, Varnum, Sally Stone, Mary and Eunice. Lucy married Nathaniel Mead and settled within half a mile of the old place, where in her new and pleasant home, she, with her husband and children, lived until near the close of her life. Her family are described in the Mead family in this book. Franklin was a cooper by trade, and an excellent workman. He died unmarried, June 21, 1840. Sally Stone married Phinehas W. Houghton, of Harvard, where they lived awhile and then returned to Boxborough. She left no children.

Eunice Taylor, a lady of purity and loveliness of character, died young. Miss Mary Taylor, the only one remaining of the family, whose early and middle life was spent in teaching, is now living in her own house in the pleasant village of West Acton. Captain Varnum Taylor, then a commissioned officer, married Mary D. Bowers, of Harvard. Their children were Antoinette Lovina, Marietta Nancy, Sarah Ann Stone, and Warren Varnum. Antoinette L. married Luther Barnard, a provision dealer in Chelsea, whose business was kept up until his death. In less than a year after her husband's death she buried her little girl. Ten years afterwards she married Mr. D. W. Cobleigh and settled on the limestone farm in Boxborough. Marietta N. married Charles H. Holton, and resides in West Acton. He is a son of Dea. Leonard Holton, of Boston. His parents are buried at Mount Auburn. Sarah Ann S. married George H. Law, and lives in South Boston. Their children are Edith May, Ralph Henry, and Arthur Warren. Warren V. married Miss Susan Cutler, and they have two children, Bertha May and Warner Varnum. Mr. Taylor is a provision dealer, doing good business in Wakefield. Warner V. is the last one in this branch of the family to perpetuate the name.

Miss Nancy Taylor married Mr. Jacob Littlefield. Sheldon, their only child, was born Feb. 18, 1834, and his mother dying in his infancy, he was left in the care of his mother's family, and one after another passing away, the guardian care and tutorage devolved on Miss Mary Taylor, his mother's sister. At seventeen he left the old homestead for the city, but after spending a year in a grocery store in Charlestown, he, with two or three of his old school-mates, attended New Ipswich Academy one term. During his stay there he accepted an application to teach a winter term at Brookline, N. H. So successful was he in his new vocation that his services were solicited for another month to be paid for by subscription. He returned to his native town and spent a few weeks in a shoe-shop, but in early spring went to Charlestown again and engaged himself to Mr. Palmer, a provision dealer, where he remained until



1855, when, being of age, he set sail in a vessel bound for California. Crossing the isthmus on mules he took passage on the other side, and landed at the Golden Gate. After spending a few months there and at Marysville, he proceeded to the mines. Here successes and reverses alternated continually; but never discouraged, he at length opened a store. He had made many friends and business was good. He was soon appointed Justice of the Peace. Here he remained until 1864, when he went to San Francisco and engaged in business as a commission merchant, remaining there twenty-four years. In 1878 he made a trip to his native State and the home of his childhood, not having taken a holiday for fourteen years. In 1870 he married Miss Nancy Southwood, and in '87 or '88, they, with their growing family, sought a home in a more congenial climate. He is now one of the leading men, a wealthy and honored citizen, of the fast-growing city of Anaheim, Southern California.

When the first three pioneers, Ephraim, Phineas, and John Taylor came to this section, the country was wild and wooded. They felled trees and built their houses. Their farms joining, although a mile and a half from each other they thought themselves near neighbors. In the year 1782 the old log house owned and occupied by Captain Oliver Taylor, Sr., was burned with all its treasures. It was just after harvesting, when the corn was in the garret and the vegetables in the cellar. The neighbors for miles around, kind, helpful, and full of sympathy, gave expression to their feelings by felling trees, hewing timber, digging a new cellar, and raising the frame — of green timber, which was all they had. It was of oak and is sound today. Although rude, it was a shelter, and with its three huge fire-places they called it comfortable. So quickly was the work despatched that upon Thanksgiving Day they were living in their own home. With hearts overflowing with gratitude they partook of the bounty prepared by the neighbors, who were present to receive their thanks. Not a man or woman took a cent of pay for all this work. Ever after this it was Captain Taylor's custom upon every returning

Thanksgiving Day, as children and grandchildren stood around the festal board, to ask a blessing, and after the meal to return thanks.

In the year 1826, Captain Taylor's wife died suddenly on Monday evening, and was buried on Thanksgiving Day. Without eating or drinking, he sat by her side until she was laid away: all he could say was, "I can't be with her long."

When a boy of sixteen, Captain Taylor brought a beautiful little elm from Wolf Swamp on his back, and set it southeast of the old log house. The wind blowing from the same direction during the fire, the tree was not injured, not even a twig. This tree was his darling pet and received his care for seventy years. In 1883, July 4, just one hundred and one years after the burning of the old house, the grandchildren made a festival in honor of their grandfather and his pet tree. The long, flowing branches, by actual measurement from north to south, extended eighty-seven and a half feet. In the shadow of these drooping branches the tables were set, laden with every luxury. Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and great-great-great-grandchildren — Miss Emma Cutler, of the sixth generation — neighbors, friends, and invited guests, came till they numbered nearly one hundred. The minister was there to express the children's thanks for the past, and invoke Heaven's blessing on all the future generations. After the repast — the tables cleared — the company with joyous hearts were seated in the shadow of the drooping branches of the old tree, while two little girls, Edith M. Law and Bertha May Taylor, on a platform erected for the purpose, gave recitations. Captain Varnum Taylor wrote and read a brief sketch of family history. In speaking of the old elm he said, "It measures in circumference, one foot from the ground, 17 1-2 feet, and is estimated to contain at least five cords of wood. My friends, we witness at this late day the life of a noteworthy tree that long existed before any of us first breathed the breath of life, and we invoke the Divine blessing to rest upon it and prolong its life for at least another century, that the same unabated patriotism may then exist as

is manifested by us here today. And I, this fourth day of July, 1883, especially recommend that henceforth this tree may be known and called, 'The Independence Elm of Boxborough.' " A poem was written and read by Miss Mary Taylor, entitled "The Old Elm Tree," from which we quote :

"Wave on, old tree, wave on,  
In all thy grandeur and thy grace.  
Wave on, as thou hast ever done,  
Blessing the human race."

Mr. Adelbert Mead congratulated the company on the success of the day and related some reminiscences of his boyhood with regard to his honored sire. The little girls sang, Miss Lucie M. Patch, accompanist, and Mr. Mead in his own happy words, in behalf of the friends, presented Captain Taylor with a gold-headed cane, and Mrs. Taylor, a sum of money representing a pair of gold-bowed spectacles. Captain Taylor, with heart overflowing with gratitude for the love that prompted the gift, responded in his genial manner. Just three years and one day from that time Captain Taylor suddenly passed away. He was a man like his father, of noble and generous impulse and strict integrity of character. The old homestead, retaining its name for two hundred years without interruption, is still owned by a descendant, Mrs. D. W. Cobleigh.

Solomon Taylor, mentioned in the early part of this sketch, and his wife, Anna Whitman, were the parents of ten children : Anna, Mary, born Nov. 5, 1780,— Mrs. Silas Hoar's mother,— Elizabeth, Solomon, John, Mercy, Susanna, Daniel, Jane Whitman, and Sally Brewer. Anna married Aaron Pollard, of Lancaster, and removed to Boston, where they reared a large family. Mary married Silas Wetherbee. (See Wetherbee family.) Elizabeth was unmarried. Solomon married, and died in Westford, leaving no children. John married Sarah Burditt, of Lancaster, and they have several children. Mercy married Joseph Randall, and settled in Boston. They have four children. Susanna married John Lowell, a sea-captain, of Bath, Me., and they have two children. Daniel was killed, when eighteen or nineteen years of age, by the caving in of

the bank of the old turnpike which he was engaged in building. Jane Whitman married Oliver Davis, son of that Oliver who was selectman and assessor in 1833, and '34, and brother of Eli Davis, of Littleton. Sally Brewer married Robert Alden, of Boston, and of their five children, three daughters and an only son are settled in Washington, D. C., and the remaining daughter is married and resides in Marlborough.

Solomon Taylor, the father, lived upon the old Oliver Taylor farm until 1798, when he removed to Harvard.

Jonathan and Lucy (Whitecomb) Taylor were the parents of three children, Lucy, Harriet and Mehitable. Lucy married Gibson Willard, of Chesterfield, N. H. They lived and died in Massachusetts. Harriet married Elisha Hill, of Chesterfield, where they lived and died. Mehitable married a Mr. Wilson, and moved to Nebraska, where they died. Whitecomb, their only son, smart and enterprising, is now living in the place where his parents spent their later days.

Lovell and Mercy (Rand) Taylor were the parents of four children, Mercy, Lovell, Oliver and Frances Ann. Mercy married Silas Davis, of West Acton, lived there a few years, and then went to Charlestown. Simon, their youngest son, graduated at Harvard, and is now Counsellor at Law in Boston. Lovell married Mary Ann Moore, of Rockbottom. He died young. Oliver lives at the old homestead in Stow. Frances Ann married Henry Gates, of Stow, a wealthy farmer in that town.

The Silas Taylor family of one hundred years ago have descendants living in Acton. The family were very active in all that pertained to the interest of the town in early years, having served the town in many positions of public trust. Several of the slabs in the lower "burying-ground" bear the names of members of this family.

## CHAPTER XIV.

WETHERBEE FAMILY — WHITCOMB FAMILY — JOHN READ  
 WHITCOMB — WOOD FAMILY — DEA. M. E. WOOD —  
 GEORGE C. WRIGHT.

## THE WETHERBEE FAMILY.

So far back as we can trace them, there seem to have been three Wetherbee families settled in town, though perhaps, could we trace the line a little farther, we should find — what is supposed to be the case — that there were only two families originally, and that the heads of these were brothers. Phinehas Wetherbee, whose father, John Wetherbee, was here as early as 1717, or 1727, settled on the farm where Silas Hoar now lives, and was ancestor of the line of Silas, Simeon, Norman and probably Charles Wetherbee. The farm has been in possession of the family from very early times, and descendants of the eighth, ninth and tenth generations in the persons of Mrs. Lucy (Wetherbee) Hoar, her daughter, Mrs. Mercy (Hoar) Wetherbee, and the children of Mercy (Hoar) and Charles T. Wetherbee, are now occupying the old homestead. The house now standing was built more than 150 years ago. There are old deeds and wills of the time of Queen Anne in possession of the present family. A remote ancestor of the family, becoming alarmed lest he should in some way lose his wealth, is said to have hidden a large sum of money upon the estate. The story has been handed down from one to another, and later generations have sought for the rumored wealth, but, although at one time the sum of \$30 or \$40 was found in a drill-hole in a rock, with a bullet placed over it, nothing more has ever been discovered.

Silas and Betty Wetherbee were the great-grandparents of Mrs. Lucy (Wetherbee) Hoar — wife of Silas Hoar — who is the oldest representative of this branch of the Wetherbee family now living in town. Her grandparents were Simeon and Mary (Robbins) Wetherbee, and her parents, Silas and Mary (Taylor) Wetherbee, daughter of Solomon and Anna. The first Silas Wetherbee gave the meeting-house lot in 1775; he was much interested in both church and district when they were in their infancy. He was selectman in 1783. Silas and Mary were the parents of fourteen children: Simeon, born Nov. 4, 1800; Stillman, Andrew, born Jan. 21, 1804, Silas Whitman, born Feb. 16, 1806, Daniel, Emory, Mary Ann, Susannah Lowell, Solomon Taylor, who died young, John Robbins, Lucy, born June 21, 1820, and Clarissa, her twin, who died in infancy, Eliza Jane Brewer, and Mary Randall. Simeon married Persis Whitney; Stillman married Elizabeth Sargent, of Stow, and their only daughter married Simeon Green, of Harvard. Andrew married Mary Sargent and settled in town. Of their eight children only four are now living. Augustine resides in Acton, and his widowed mother, Mrs. Mary (Sargent) Wetherbee, is now living, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years, in Gardner, Mass. Silas Whitman married Mary Sargent, sister of Elizabeth, and went to Stow, afterwards settled in Boxborough. He died about eight years ago; his wife died several years before, and of their eight children, only two are now living, Mrs. Jane E. Tuttle, of Fitchburg, and Stillman Wetherbee, of Chelsea, Mass. Daniel married Nancy Bulkeley, and had no children; Emory married Hannah Dyer, of Lowell. He died young, leaving no children. She lived to the age of eighty years, and died in the autumn of 1889. Mary Ann married George Dolby and went away from town; Susannah Lowell married Thomas Johnston, of Boston, and they had one child. Mr. Johnston died in 1888, and Mrs. Johnston in 1889. They are buried in the cemetery on the hill. John Robbins Wetherbee married Nancy Goodwin, of Boxborough, and settled in Bolton. They have eight children. Lucy married Silas Hoar and settled on the old homestead

place, where seven generations of the Wetherbee family had lived before her. They have an only daughter, Mercy, who married Charles T. Wetherbee — of another branch of the Wetherbee family — and they have three children, Harry L., Charles L., and Daniel. Eliza Jane Brewer married William Eaton, of Clinton, and they have three children. Mercy Randall married Stillman Houghton, of Worcester. They have one son.

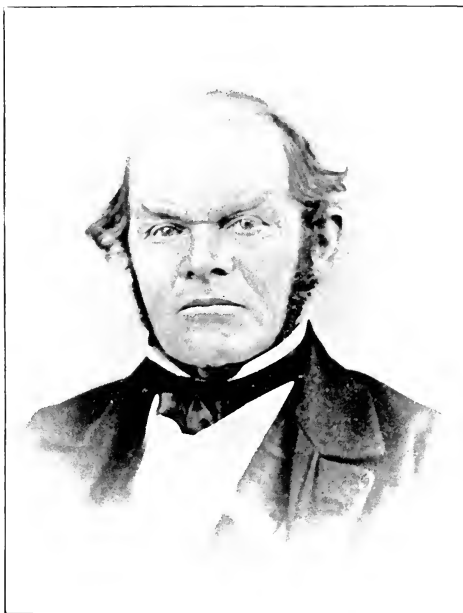
Simeon and Persis (Whitney) Wetherbee were the parents of seven children: Andrew, Simeon, Caroline, Samuel Norman, Silas, Edward, who died in infancy, and Edward. Andrew married Nancy Wheeler, of Littleton, settled in town, and removed to Stow; Simeon married Caroline Blanchard, and settled in town; Caroline married Oliver Mead, of this town; Samuel Norman married Caroline Wheeler, of Stow, and settled on the farm where his father had lived before him. They have two children living, Mrs. Elsie Davidson and Dora. Silas married Mary Parmenter, of Marlborough, and resides in that place; Edward married Susan Withington, and they, with their two children, Persis and Alfred, are residents of Boxborough.

The ancestor of another branch of the Wetherbee family settled on the farm where John H. Whitcomb now lives, and one of the family, for at least four generations, has borne the name of Samuel. Samuel, who was the son of Samuel and Sarah Wetherbee, and Betsey, his wife, were the parents of seven children: Charles, Betsey, Sally, Lucinda, Lucy, Dolly and Samuel (1807-72). Charles, Lucinda and Lucy died young. Betsey married Daniel Houghton, of Harvard; Sally married Ephraim Whitcomb, of Littleton; Dolly married Joel Hayward, of Ashby, and Samuel married Maria Fletcher for his first wife, and for the second, Naomi Chandler, of Maine. Samuel and Naomi (Chandler) Wetherbee were the parents of two children,— Maria, who married John H. Whitcomb, and is settled on the old Wetherbee place (their children, Ralph and Ira, are the fifth generation that have occupied it), and Charles T., who married Mercy Hoar.

Phinehas, the ancestor of a third branch of the Wetherbee family, was quite an old man in 1770, and owned the farm where W. H. Furbush now lives. His son, Phinehas, owned the place in 1783. The first house, of logs, was built in the second field north of Mr. Parker's, the original grant of land containing something more than 200 acres. Old deeds show that they were in quite good circumstances for those times, owning not only this land, but making quite large money transactions. As an illustration may be mentioned the fact that the first Phinehas Wetherbee paid \$1000 to a man in Littleton as a substitute in the army, 1775-1778. They were active and interested in town and public affairs. The first deed describes the land as being in Littleton, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay, in the tenth year of the reign of George the Third. Mr. Augustus W. Wetherbee, the last and only representative of this branch in town says, "I have heard my grandfather speak of the first of the family, and how they often saw the Indians looking into their windows at night." I quote also from his Centennial speech : "It is something more than one hundred and sixty years since my ancestors broke the soil and built their cabin in the field just back of the house now owned by Mr. Parker, and for one hundred and fifty-five years they lived there and at the old homestead where Mr. Furbush now lives and tilled those same acres ; and there was I born, and here have I lived the most of my life. In yonder graveyard, one of the first stones erected is to the memory of one of my ancestors. Well do I remember the stories of my grandmother, of the early settlers' struggle with the Indian and wild beast, of how they used to go to market on horseback, with their saddlebags on before and a carcass or two of veal or mutton strapped on behind, the roads mere cart paths then : of how they used to come up to worship God on this very spot on which we now stand, on horseback, the husband riding before, and the wife and two or three children on a pillion behind."

Phinehas Wetherbee had seven children : John, Daniel, Phinehas, Betty, Caty, Dolly and Hannah. John Wetherbee born Apr. 19, 1783, married Linda Wood, born May 17, 1784.





OLIVER WETHERBEE.



and they had three children, Oliver, John and Lucinda. John Wetherbee, Sr., was very energetic and enterprising, but at the age of twenty-three, after over-exertion in fighting a fire in the woods, took a severe cold, which resulted in paralysis of his right side, so that for twenty-eight years he could not walk a step, and for fifty-eight years he was able to do very little. He acquired, however, quite a property, owning half of the original farm. He was town treasurer for quite a number of years, and was especially interested in church affairs. He died May 18, 1864; his wife, Linda, died March 2, 1863.

#### OLIVER WETHERBEE.

Oliver, son of John and Linda Wetherbee (1805-1875), married Mary Whitcomb, and they had three children, Jonathan Kimball Wood, Martha M. and Marietta C. Mrs. Mary (Whitcomb) Wetherbee is still living, at the age of eighty-four years, with her son Kimball, who married S. Jennie Tuttle and resides at South Acton. Kimball Wetherbee commenced work with the Tuttles, at South Acton, as a clerk, and worked his way up to his present position, one of the firm of Tuttle, Jones and Wetherbee. He has been much in town office, and has been several times a candidate for the General Court. Martha M. Wetherbee (1839-1865) is said to have been "One of the best of women, active everywhere, a splendid teacher and musician." Marietta C. (1850-1880) married Charles B. Stone, and had one daughter, Elma, who died in 1890, at her father's home in West Acton.

Oliver Wetherbee commenced teaching when about twenty years of age and became quite a noted teacher. He was elected to town office soon after he was twenty-one, and nearly all his life held office, either as selectman, assessor, town clerk or treasurer, often more than one, and for many years was school superintendent. He and his brother John were early interested in military affairs, both belonging to the company in town as long as it existed, John holding the rank of first lieutenant. They were both much interested in music, playing together in church and in private for nearly forty years, more than thirty

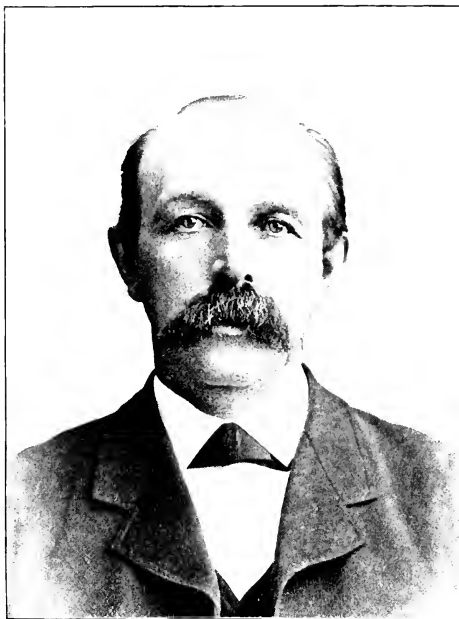
years in church. Oliver Wetherbee was chorister forty-four years, and church clerk eighteen years. Both were active in political and public affairs.

John Wetherbee (1807-1874) married Louisa S. Brown, who died several years ago. They were the parents of two children: Francis Wood, who died in infancy, and Augustus Winslow.

#### AUGUSTUS WINSLOW WETHERBEE.

Augustus Winslow, son of John and Louisa Wetherbee, born Sept. 1, 1839, married Hattie Lane (1844-1884), daughter of Simon P. and Clarissa (Gregg) Lane of Windham, N. H., Jan. 1, 1870, and settled in his native town. He graduated from the Pepperell Academy in 1861, worked with his father on the home farm until 1865, engaged in the produce and commission business in Boston for two years, and then learned the business of carpenter and builder, in which occupation he is engaged at the present time. Mr. Wetherbee is interested in all that pertains to the town, and has held various positions of usefulness therein. He was sent Representative to the General Court from the 33d Middlesex district in 1881, and was chairman of the Republican town committee for a period of ten years. He is especially interested in church affairs, and has held the position of chorister of the Congregational church for many years. He has also served as clerk and treasurer thirteen years, and as Sunday-school superintendent three years. For eighteen years he has been a member of the school board,—four times its superintendent,—and for fifteen years, secretary of the Farmers' Club. Mr. Wetherbee, whose name appears among those of our soldiers, served in the late war three years. He enlisted in Co. B., 32d Reg't, Mass. Volunteers, November 26, 1861, and was discharged November 26, 1864. He was with the Army of the Potomac in the 2d Brigade, 1st Division, 5th Army Corps, from Harrison's Landing to Weldon R. R. Petersburg, Va., and served two years as commissary sergeant of the 1st Division.

Lucinda Wetherbee (1821-1882) married John W. Phillips, a noted architect. He superintended the erection of several



A. W. WETHERBEE.



fine buildings in Lowell, among them the new jail. He was an Englishman by birth. They are both dead, also John H., their second child: the others, William W., Josie and Charles, are living in Jonesville, Wisconsin.

Phinehas Wetherbee, of West Acton, is the son of Daniel Wetherbee, brother of the first John Wetherbee.

#### JOHN WETHERBEE.

Levi Wetherbee, the father of John Wetherbee, was a brother of Simeon Wetherbee, the grandfather of Mr. Jerome Priest and Mrs. Silas Hoar, and lived on the farm now owned by Mr. E. B. Cobleigh. He married Dorothy, daughter of Phinehas Taylor, who lived many years ago upon the Burroughs' place. She was a woman of considerable physical strength and ability. Mr. and Mrs. Wetherbee were the parents of five children: Levi, Mary, Lucy, Silas and John. Mary and Silas died young. Levi, born June 25, 1785, married Sally Wetherbee of Ashby, and their only daughter, Susan, married J. Colburn Graham, now of West Acton. They have one daughter, Mariette, who married James Coburn and resides at home. Lucy Wetherbee, born Mar. 27, 1791, married Samuel Stevens,—fifth son of Benjamin and Lucy, born in Boxborough, Aug. 27, 1791, a cabinet maker,—and went to Marlborough, where their only child, Levi Wetherbee, was born. They afterwards removed to Bolton, and here, after a residence of only six months, Mr. Stevens died and his widow returned to her father's home in Boxborough, where she lived until her son's marriage, when she went to reside with him upon the adjoining farm, now occupied by Deacon S. B. Hager. She remained with her son until her death. He removed to a residence on the West Acton road, near the Joseph Hayward homestead, but the house being burned,—the old cellar wall may still be seen,—he removed to West Acton, to the house now occupied by Mr. Varnum B. Mead, which he built. Dec. 15, 1841, Levi Wetherbee Stevens married Lucy Ann Patch, of Marlborough, and their only daughter, Mary Lucy, married Albert B. Brown. Mr. Stevens married for his second wife,

Mary, daughter of Ebenezer Hayward, of Boxborough. Of their three children only one is now living, Warren Arthur, who married Miss Emmie Ireland, of Littleton, and with his wife and son, resides at Robert's Crossing, Waltham, where he is station-agent. Mr. Stevens' third wife was Roxanna Hall, daughter of Deacon Enoch Hall, of West Acton; the fourth, Mary Croston, of Haverhill. Mr. Stevens is a carpenter and builder, and a finished workman. He has erected quite a number of houses in the village of West Acton and vicinity, among them, that upon the Aldrich place which Arthur Blanchard now owns, one upon the Edwin Stone place, Dr. Dodge's, and a new double house in which he resides at the present time. In former years Mr. Stevens was always active in the various village enterprises, having been on the school board, and president of the Lyceum.

Mr. John Wetherbee, born Nov. 7, 1800, and Mrs. Susannah (Hayward) Fairbanks, of Gardner, Mass., second daughter of James Hayward, of Boxborough, were united in marriage by Rev. J. Warren Cross, Nov. 20, 1838. Mrs. Wetherbee brought with her to Boxborough two sons by a former marriage, James Hayward and Sewell Fairbanks. James H. married Anna M., daughter of Ira and Susan (Piper) Gibbs, of Boston. Their only child, J. Hayward, died when only five years of age. Mr. James H. Fairbanks, the father, died Aug. 23, 1865, aged 34 years. Sewell married Caroline, daughter of Ai Blood, of Boston. The names of their five children are as follows: Fannie B., James L., Carrie L., Emma F., and Bertha M. The two last named died in infancy. The mother died Feb. 13, 1875. Mr. Fairbanks married for his second wife, Mrs. Carrie J. (Brown) Boyt, of Denmark, Iowa, daughter of Joseph Brown, of Groton, Mass. Mr. Sewell Fairbanks died at Boston Highlands, Mar. 7, 1891, aged 58 years, and 4 months.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wetherbee settled on the home farm, and their three children, Ellen A., Susan A. and Emmaetta F., were all born at the old homestead. Mr. Wetherbee was Orderly Sergeant in the Military Company in Boxborough as long as it existed, and his regimentals,—lace-trimmed coat,



hat, and sword,—are still in possession of the family. He was one of the financial “pillars of the church” in Boxborough, always giving liberally as God had prospered him, for the support of His cause. Mr. Wetherbee removed to West Acton in 1855, where he died July 31, 1858. His wife died the same year, Oct. 13, 1858. Their children reside in West Acton at the present time. Susan A., the second daughter, married Mr. Delette H. Hall, son of Deacon Enoch and Elneline (Hosmer) Hall, of West Acton, of the firm of Hall and Sons, Wooden Ware Manufacturers, and they have four children, Eugene L., Bertram D., Etta R., and A. Stanley Hall. Ellen A. and Fannie E. Wetherbee reside at the home place where they have always lived since going to West Acton—with the exception of six years ‘75–’81 spent in Boston in charge of their brother’s house after his wife’s death—the house having been previously built by, Mr. Wetherbee, to rent. Having been left orphans when the youngest daughter was only eight years of age, the eldest, then but fifteen, became, as it were, the head of the family, keeping them all together under the home roof, and exercising towards her younger sisters the watchfulness and care of a mother. Miss Fannie E. Wetherbee is teacher of the infant class, and superintendent of the whole primary department, consisting of four or five classes with their teachers,—connected with the Baptist church. Mrs. Hall and her husband have been members of the choir for a long time, and all three are actively engaged in church work.

#### THE WHITCOMB FAMILY.

The first of the Whitcombs came from England some time previous to 1633, and settled in Dorchester, Mass. There seems to be a number of branches, so far as we have been able to trace them. Ephraim Whitcomb, Sr., was born in Littleton about 1700, married Parthias Wheeler, of Stow, in 1731, and settled in Nashoba,—a part of Littleton. Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr., and Hannah, his wife, settled on the farm of his brother Daniel—where Mr. Ephraim Cobleigh now lives—and were the parents of nine children: Moses, Reuben, Lucy, Ephraim,

Hannah, Samuel, Peter, Martha and Joel. Of these, Reuben married and settled in Harvard; Hannah married and went to Gardner to reside; Samuel lived in Boxborough a number of years after his marriage, and three of his children were born here; he then removed to Littleton. Lucy married Paul Hayward, Jr., and settled on the place where Mr. N. E. Whitcomb now lives. They had twelve children.

Ephraim — Capt. or Lient. Ephraim Whitcomb, both titles having been given to him — married Katherine, daughter of Boaz Brown, and settled on the farm where his father-in-law, Boaz Brown, resided, and afterwards built the brick house which stands there at the present time. Mr. Benjamin S. Hager now owns and occupies this estate. Of their eight children, three — Ephraim, Joel and Joab — were unmarried; Betsey married Benjamin Houghton and settled in Harvard. They were the parents of three children — Henry, who died in early manhood; John, a provision dealer at West Acton; and Ephraim, a farmer in Harvard, formerly, but now working at the carpenter's trade. Hannah married Daniel Cobleigh and settled on the old Cobleigh place, opposite Mr. Wright's present residence. The old homestead has long since gone to decay. Three sons — Ruel T., Daniel W. and Ephraim B. — are now living in town. Katherine married Oliver Russell and went to Harvard. Edward married the daughter of Jeremiah Tuttle, Sr., of Littleton. Martha married Daniel Whitcomb, and settled in Boxborough, on the place now occupied by Mr. J. A. Walker, who married one of the daughters. There were six children, — James Henry, who lost his life in the late war; John, who married Maria Wetherbee, and settled on one of the old Wetherbee places in Boxborough; Betsey (Mrs. Walker); Sarah, who married Jacob Priest, and is now living in Harvard; Anna Luella, who married Marshall Wilder and resides in Clinton, Mass., and Martha Jane, who died when quite young.

Martha or Patty, daughter of Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr., married Ephraim Taylor and lived on the Burroughs place. After the death of her husband, she, with her four children — Ephraim, Joel, Reuben and Isaac — went to New York to live.

Joel, son of Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr., married, and resided on Burroughs place after Ephraim Taylor. They buried several children. Joel Whitcomb, Jr., is living at West Acton.

Moses, son of Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr., married Anna Hayward, of Boxborough. Of their twelve children several died in infancy. Of nine who lived to mature years, Sally married, and went to Ashby; Betsey married a Tenny and went away from town; Daniel, to whom we have before alluded, married Martha Whitcomb, and settled on the present Walker place; Mary married Oliver Wetherbee and settled on the old Phineas Wetherbee place, now W. H. Furbush's; Lydia married for her second husband, Mr. Peters, father of George L. Peters, of Stow, and made her home in Boxborough; they had three children. Moses, Jr., married Martha Cotton, of Boxborough, and settled on the old Whitcomb homestead, where Ephraim Cobleigh now resides. They buried several children. There are five remaining,—Edwin Whitcomb, Mrs. Hannah Conant, Mrs. Caroline Hosmer and Mrs. Maria Hendley, of Littleton, and Frank Whitcomb, of West Acton. Annie married Mr. Harry Hoar, of Littleton. Paul married Hannah Bent, of Stow, and went away from town; they had two sons, John—Col. John Whitcomb—married Maria Goodwin for his first wife; they had no children. He married Sarah Emory for his second wife, and of their five children, one died in infancy. Nathaniel Emory married Abbie Blanchard, and lives on the old Paul Hayward place, in Boxborough; John married Nellie Rand, and went to Fitchburg; Maria married Charles E. Smith, and died in Holden, in 1890; and James married Edna, daughter of Mr. Granville Whitcomb, and resides in Fitchburg. Col. John Whitcomb married Mrs. Eliza A. Hayward for his third wife.

Peter, son of Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr., married Sally Bachelior, and they were the parents of seven children. Myra married a Raymond, and went to Harvard; Peter died in early childhood; Stillman married Adeline Priest, and their two children went to the Sandwich Islands to live; Sally married Samuel Hosmer, and went to Acton first, afterward

settled in Harvard; Peter, Jr. married Betsey Mead, Jan. 2, 1839, and settled in Boxborough. They buried their only child, Augustine A., about three years ago. His wife, a daughter of Mr. William Moore, died some years before. Granville married Caroline Hoar, March 4, 1841, and settled in Boxborough. March 4, 1891, they celebrated their golden wedding. They have nine children,—A. Granville, Elwyn, Edna, Carrie, Myra, Clarence, Frank, Eva and Austin. They are all married but two, and one, Frank, is settled upon the Nathaniel Mead farm in Boxborough. All of the children except two are musicians, and one daughter, Edna, has been a salaried singer in the city of Fitchburg, where she resides. Austin teaches music in the same place. Merrill Whitcomb married in Boxborough, went to Bedford, and afterwards settled in Charlestown. One of his four children, George, married May Wetherbee, of Boxborough, and lives in Charlestown.

Peter and Granville are the only representatives of their family now living. Ephraim Whitcomb, the grandfather of these two, served in town in various positions of trust and responsibility. He was one of the selectmen when the district was incorporated in 1783, and held that position, at different times, for many years. He also held the offices of town clerk, treasurer, assessor, and he was a prominent worker in the church and society when they were in their infancy. Moses, Ephraim and Joel, sons of Ephraim Whitcomb, Jr., also held office as selectmen for many years. Moses Whitcomb, Jr., and his son Moses, held this office: the father was superintending school committee at one time. Peter Whitcomb, the father of Granville and Peter, was town treasurer for nine years, for which service he would take no compensation. He also served the town in the capacity of selectman. Mr. Granville Whitcomb has served the town as superintending school committee, town clerk, selectman, assessor, constable and collector, and auditor. He had the honor of being sent representative at one time, and his father, and two of his father's

brothers, Capt. Ephraim and Joel, also held this position for more than one year.

### JOHN REED WHITCOMB.

John Reed Whitcomb, who died at his home in Littleton, Mar. 2, 1890, was a native of Boxborough. His father, Samuel Whitcomb, lived in a dwelling which formerly stood in the field in front of Mr. Parker's present residence. All traces of the habitation have long since passed away. I quote from the *Lowell Journal* of Mar. 21, 1890, the following item under Littleton: "Died in this town at six o'clock Sunday morning, Mar. 2, John Reed Whitcomb, in his eighty-fifth year. When such a life goes out it deserves more than a passing mention. We do well to pause a moment and reflect upon what is gone. In the hurry of modern life we let pass too easily from the thought the worthy lives of these old people, who have kept their places, and been, as it were, the landmarks in these old towns. Such sterling qualities of character as industry, honesty, frugality, benevolence, generosity, and reverence, may well be considered and emulated. In his simple life, 'Uncle Reed,' for by this name was he universally known, preserved all these qualities. It may be said of him that his life was one of strict integrity. It is not probable that any one can point to a single dishonest act. The industry and economy of this good man and his wife were not to gain that they might hoard, but close upon these traits followed an exemplary generosity and a cheerful benevolence. The sick were not forgotten in his gifts, and those well and strong, but carrying burdens, often felt them lightened by his substantial aid. As the children grew up in the neighborhood and town, and went forth into the world as men and women, they have come back to the old place to find, through whatever changes, 'Uncle Reed' still the same. Although for some years old age has been creeping on apace, yet he was always kind, cheerful and interested in the welfare of them all. We shall miss his face and form from the old, familiar places. The old-time tea-drinkings and sports which have found place

at the old farm will be remembered by old and young. A large number of friends felt it a privilege to 'call around' for an afternoon, without invitation, knowing this hospitable couple would always find it 'convenient' to receive them. As he passed away on that calm Sabbath morning, so quietly that the patient watcher by his side hardly knew when he went, we cannot mourn his loss. Ever since the death of his devoted wife, some ten years since, his has been one long prayer to be released from earth, and to go hence. He had no fear to die, but gladly hailed the messenger when he came.

And I am glad that he has lived thus long,  
And glad that he has gone to his reward,  
Nor can I deem that Nature did him wrong  
Softly to disengage the vital cord.  
For when his hand grew palsied, and his eye  
Dark with the mists of age, it was his time to die."

In his will Mr. Whitecomb bequeathed the Orthodox and Unitarian societies of Littleton \$2,000 each, the income to go toward paying for preaching; and the town of Littleton \$1,000, the income to be used in keeping the Whitecomb lot in order, and for other cemetery purposes.

#### THE WOOD FAMILY.

The name of Mr. Bennet Wood is intimately associated with the early history of the town. He was the second son of Jeremiah and Dorathy (Benet) Wood, the fifth of a family of ten children. Henry Champion, the grandfather of Mr. Wood's mother, Dorathy, was born in England in 1611, and came to New England as one of the first settlers of Lyme and Saybrook, Conn. His father, Jeremiah Wood, was a weaver, a yeoman, gentleman, as shown by account-books and papers. He was constable and collector, later, selectman, and for some years, treasurer of Littleton, and a member and supporter of the church. He purchased his estate there, Jan. 13, 1717, a part of which is still in possession of his descendants. He received the deed from the town of Littleton, as explained by the deed itself, which is now in possession of Isaac Wood, Boston, Mass. Several generations of the Wood family have been born

there. "In uprightness of character, stability of purpose, sound judgment, and high regard for family and personal honor, the family of Jeremiah and Dorathy Wood was no ordinary family. Jeremiah Wood died July 15, 1730; Dorathy, his wife, died July 17, 1752. Their graves are side by side in Littleton, and near them are grouped the graves of some of their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren."

On an old weather-beaten slab in the hill burying-ground in Boxborough, we may read this inscription:

"In Memory of  
MR. BENNET WOOD  
who departed this life  
Apr. 28th, 1797  
In the 81st year of  
his age."

Beside it is erected another stone to the memory of his second wife, Mrs. Isabel Wood, who died Dec. 14, 1797, in the 84th year of her age (the first wife, Lydia Law, of Acton, died Feb. 27, 1765, aged 54 years, 1 month, 13 days, and is buried among the Wood families in Littleton), and near these lies a granddaughter, Lois Wood, who died Feb. 1, 1782, aged 15 years, 2 months, 22 days. Bennet Wood was a prominent and enterprising man, as all his transactions and business connection with his fellow-townsmen plainly testify. He did very much for the formation of the church, and afterward the town, in the early days, and his energy and perseverance helped greatly to pave the way to success.

Mr. Jonathan Wood, the ninth child of Jeremiah and Dorathy, is mentioned as issuing the first town warrant in Boxborough. He is spoken of as an honored citizen, and prominent in both civil and military affairs. Mr. John Wood, the sixth child of Jeremiah and Dorathy, has descendants still living in this town. He was twelve years old when his father died. A large part of the real estate was apportioned to him. He married Lydia Davis, of Harvard, Mass., Oct. 19, 1743. He was

a constable and collector at the age of twenty-four, a prominent and successful man, had pleasant surroundings for those times, and had a promising young family: but death called him away Apr. 8, 1758, at the early age of forty. Lydia Wood remained a widow for several years, and then married David Goodridge, of Fitchburg. John and Lydia Wood are both buried with the Wood families, in Littleton. Dea. John Wood, son of John and Lydia, the third of a family of seven, was born in Littleton, Sept. 3, 1747. He married Lucy Martin in 1769, and settled upon the home place, where, in 1790, he built himself a fine residence.

The old homestead, recently in possession of George F. Conant, and now occupied by Mr. Campbell, is still in an excellent state of preservation. Deacon Wood was one of Littleton's trusted townsmen: held various responsible public positions, and was deacon of the church for nearly thirty years. He died May 4, 1826, in his seventy-ninth year. Upon his gravestone, in Littleton, is the following:

"Farewell, dear friend and children, too,  
God has called me home:  
In a short time he 'll call for you,  
Prepare yourselves to come."

Lucy (Martin) Wood was born in Old Ipswich, Mass., and died in Littleton, Feb. 20, 1836. The following is upon her gravestone:

"Farewell, my friends, my children dear,  
My Saviour calls me home:  
My Saviour calls my children, too,  
Prepare yourselves to come."

Captain Amariah Wood, sixth son of Dea. John and Lucy Wood, says "My mother's name was Lucy Martin. Her father, George Martin, lived in Old Ipswich; moved from there to Lunenburg, Mass. Her ancestor, Martin, was a weaver in England: his wife was one of the higher classes; her parents were opposed to her marrying a weaver, and they came to America. My mother's great-grandfather's name was Dergy: he was the King of England's cup-bearer."



Amariah Wood thoroughly learned the trades of tanner and currier, and carried on that business about a quarter of a century, in Bolton, Mass. He married and had a large family of children by his first wife: he had no children by his second wife. He was an honored citizen, having held civil offices of trust. He held a commission as lieutenant, given him by Governor Caleb Strong of Mass., and a commission as captain. To the former office he was elected Nov. 27, 1812, and the latter, May 3, 1814, and was captain of an independent company later. He was a conscientious and upright man, of marked ability and scholarly attainments: was a persistent student all his life, and was always ready for research in science and metaphysics; was a close student of the Bible and was guided by it. He was skilled in musical composition, and took much pleasure in it. Selections from his manuscripts were published long after his decease. He often had original music to use at the meetings of the family. His conversations in later years were masterly, having accurate knowledge and a clear, logical mind, thoroughly disciplined. In his last days he purchased a home near Worcester, Mass., where some of his children had settled. Here he, and the estimable wife of his early and maturer years, and the mother of all his children, rested from their labors. He was born in Littleton, Mass., Sept. 9, 1785."

Martin Wood, the eldest son of Dea. John and Lucy (Martin) Wood, was born Feb. 15, 1774, and died Dec. 27, 1853. He was twice married.

"Martin Wood was well posted in common historical subjects, and had a very complete knowledge of the Bible. He was a deacon in the church, and a teacher of the Bible class for men and women in the Sunday school for many years. He was a man of sterling integrity, thoroughly honest and earnest in whatever engaged. He had quite a mechanical talent; was ingenious in making various implements and instruments, was a good carpenter, blacksmith and cooper. He built several of the school houses in Littleton. Several pieces of public roads were contracted for, and built by him. He was a skilful sur-

veyor, and was often called upon to settle disputed boundary lines where other good surveyors could not agree. He held at different times all the important places of trust in his town as committee-man, assessor, selectman."

Carshena Wood, son of Dea. John and Luey (Martin) Wood, the fourth child of a family of eleven, was born Nov. 19, 1776. He married Betsey Lawrence for his first wife, and, after her death, Tryphena Lawrence. He died July 13, 1854.

"Carshena Wood was a man of ability, but had no ambition for public display so far as he was concerned, but avoided, if possible, every public office. He was an ingenious man, learned the cooper's trade, but was always a farmer. He first settled in Ashby, Mass., but upon the death of his brother John, he sold his estate there, and was settled upon the homestead of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, and resided in the house built for his brother John, near the house of his father, the remainder of his life. He never occupied the fine residence of his father, although it was long in his possession after his parents' decease. He was a man of strict integrity; was punctiliously exact in all his engagements, and dealt honestly with every one: was a good neighbor and townsman, an early member and regular attendant of his church."

Eunice Martin, daughter of Carshena and Tryphena (Lawrence) Wood, was born in Littleton, Jan. 4, 1819, married Benjamin W. Priest, and resides in Littleton, not far from the Wood homestead. They had three children. The youngest child and only daughter, Arabella Wood, was born June 30, 1841: married Mr. George F. Keyes, and, with her husband, occupies at the present time the house where Mr. Carshena Wood, grandfather of Mrs. Keyes, formerly dwelt. They have a son, George S. W., twenty-one years of age, engaged at present in the machinist's business in Brooklyn, N. Y., and a daughter, younger, Mattie B., who resides at home.

The estates above mentioned are those recorded as having been transferred from Littleton to Boxborough, May 23, 1831.



MARTIN E. WOOD.



Mr. Walter A. Wood, of Wood's Mowing Machine fame, belongs to one branch of the Wood family. \*

## DEACON MARTIN E. WOOD.

Benjamin Wood, the grandfather of Dea. M. E. Wood, of this town, was born in Brookfield, Mass., and his grandmother, Abigail (Waldo) Wood was a native of Canterbury, Conn. They settled in Orange, N. H., where eight children were born to them, among them Nathan Waldo Wood, Dea. Wood's father. Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wood subsequently removed to Alstead, N. H., where the youngest son, Gilbert, was born, and here, this good man and his wife, who lived to rear a large family to Christian activity and usefulness, spent the remainder of their days. Nathan Waldo Wood went to Claremont, N. H., and there married Ann B. Currier, daughter of Eliphalet Currier. They were the parents of three children, two sons and one daughter, of whom (Dea.) Martin Eliphalet Wood, who was born Sept. 20, 1833, is the oldest. Horace Benjamin Wood, the second son, married Jeanette Grandy of Vt., and resides in the city of Worcester, where he is engaged as a molder in the Iron Foundry. They have three children, H. Burton, Minnie and Maud.

The daughter, Mary Abigail Wood, died at the early age of fourteen years. She was a fine scholar, and at the time of her death her friends thought her capable of teaching.

Mrs. Nathan W. Wood, Dea. Wood's mother, died when he was only eight years of age, but the influence she exerted throughout those early years was one never to be forgotten. He himself says of her, "She was a Christian woman and taught us the truths of the Bible by precept and example while she lived, and in her last hours she was sustained and comforted by them." His father, who died in 1857, was also an earnest Christian. After his mother's death, he went to live with a man in Dalton, N. H., where he remained four years, a

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\* The Quotations in the above sketch are from Wm. S. Wood's "Genealogy of the Wood Family."

period which even in retrospect is not pleasant to dwell upon, because of the want and hardship connected with it. He says of this time, "The farmers raised their own wheat, and my greatest recreation was in going to mill, some eight or ten miles distant, for my employer and the neighbors." From his twelfth to his eighteenth year, he resided with a farmer named Nathan Clark, in Croydon, N. H., and the motherless boy's experience is again best expressed in his own words: "Mrs. Clark was as good to me as though I had been her own son." Removing at the age of eighteen to Claremont, N. H., his childhood's home, he remained there fifteen years. Four years of the time were spent in the service of one man, and here he met the lady who afterward became his wife, Juliette Woodward, daughter of Samuel and Julia (Campbell) Woodward, of Chester, Vt. They were married in 1860, and ten years later removed to Dedham, Mass., where Dea. Wood had charge of the farm connected with the "Temporary Asylum for Women," and his wife that of the house.

In 1874, Mr. and Mrs. Wood came to Boxborough, and for the past seventeen years have made this town their home, being settled upon the old Hayward place,—now in possession of Mrs. Eliza A. (Hayward) Whitecomb,—of which they have had the charge. They have one son, Charles E., who resides at home.

Dea. Wood had only a common-school education, even this advantage having been somewhat limited, but he has always been a great lover of reading, and so has informed himself upon all the current topics of the day. He says, "The first money I ever had of my own,—which I obtained by raising a piece of potatoes when I was about nine years of age,—I expended for a newspaper, called the 'Youth's Cabinet.'" Dea. Wood has served the town as school committee, and as assessor for four years. He has been deacon of the Congregational church in Boxborough for fourteen years,—an office which he also held previously in Claremont, N. H.,—superintendent of the Sabbath school twelve years, and has served in various positions connected with the church to which his care and

thought have been so freely given, and for whose welfare he has labored unceasingly. He was elected a Trustee of the "Literary and Library Association," West Acton, about four years ago.

Mrs. Wood's influence as a patient and willing, though quiet worker, in the church, is also deeply felt. She was president of the "Ladies' Circle" quite a number of years, and is ever active in promoting its interests. In the home, in the church, in the sick-room, wherever she goes, whatsoever her hand finds to do, she does with her might. Mr. and Mrs. Wood have many friends and are highly respected by all who are acquainted with them.

Rev. Sumner G. Wood, of Easthampton, Mass., who will be well remembered by many of our Boxborough people, is a son of Mr. Franklin Wood, late of Waltham, Mass., who was a brother of Nathan W. Wood, Dea. Wood's father. We quote from a Waltham paper with regard to Mr. Franklin Wood: "Of deceased it may be truly said that Waltham never had a more conscientious citizen, the church a truer disciple, or home a kinder or more faithful head."

Rev. Horace Wood, who died in Keene, N. H., in 1886, was also a brother of Nathan W. Wood. He devoted himself for thirty-six years to the work of the ministry, only giving it up when compelled to do so by ill-health. It is said of him: "Wherever Mr. Wood labored, his people had confidence in him as a thoroughly good man, a safe and sympathetic counselor, without any of those eccentricities of character which injure the usefulness of so many pastors."

Rev. John Wood, of Fitchburg, Mass., a former pastor in this town, is a second cousin of Deacon Wood.

I am indebted to one of the Wright family for the following sketch:—

#### GEORGE CLEVELAND WRIGHT.

He was born Jan. 7, 1823, in Bedford. His father, Joel Wright, lived in Boxborough at one time in the brick dwelling-house opposite the Orthodox Church. His grandfather's name also was Joel, and his great-grandfather, Ebenezer Wright,

lived in Templeton and Hubbardston. His mother, Dolly H. Reed, was born in Littleton, and afterwards taught school in Boxborough. She was a daughter of Poulter Reed, and *her* mother, Molly Hartwell, was a direct descendant in the sixth generation from William Hartwell, who came to Concord in 1635-36. Poulter (son of John Reed, of Lexington), soon after his marriage to Molly Hartwell, moved to Boxborough, and lived on a farm about one eighth mile east of the centre,—in a house nearly opposite that now occupied by Simon B. Hager. They soon returned to Lexington, and then to Littleton, where George's mother was born. Mr. Wright has in his possession no less than three certificates of his mother's ability to "teach school;" one of them has a local interest, at least, and reads as follows:—

-- BOXBOROUGH,

April 17th, 1813.

These may certify that having examined Miss Dolly H. Reed, I do find her so well versed in English reading and the grammatical construction as to approve of her in the employment of teaching an English school.

(signed)

JOSEPH WILLARD, Clerk."

Rev. Joseph Willard was the first minister of the District of Boxborough.

Dec. 31, 1846, he married Susan H. Davis, daughter of Jonathan B. Davis, granddaughter of Simon Hosmer, and grandniece of Captain Isaac Davis, who was killed at Concord fight. Four of the children lived to grow up, born as follows: Estella M., Dec. 20, 1849; George S., July 13, 1857; Effie R., June 13, 1860; T. Bertha, June 5, 1866.

At the age of thirty-one, after being in the milk business in Charlestown and Boston two years, he engaged in the coffee and spice business as a member of the firm of Hayward and Co., which, after twenty-five years of successful business, united with Dwinell and Co., and soon after with Mason and Co., under the firm name of Dwinell, Hayward and Co., the largest





*Geo. C. Wright*



coffee and spice house in New England. Though always an equal partner in every respect, he never asked to have his own name appear in the firm name.

For the past thirty years he has been the coffee buyer of the house, and his frequent trips to the New York markets have made him personally known to most of the prominent coffee-men of this country. As a coffee buyer he has few equals and no superiors. With the courage of his convictions, backed by a most thorough knowledge of the statistical position of the article in question, he has shown his right to the foremost position in his department of the business: notably so in the rise of 1886-1887, when the Brazilian coffees advanced in one year more than 250 per cent in value.

From small beginnings, the firm of Dwinell, Hayward and Co. has seen a healthy and legitimate growth, and today distributes the products of its extensive factory, located at the corner of Batterymarch and Hamilton Streets, Boston, in almost every State and Territory this side the Rocky Mountains.

Mr. Wright is strictly a self-made man. Without rich or influential friends to help, he has won for himself a position in the business world that any man might envy, and to which few attain, and he bids fair, at the age of sixty-eight, to enjoy for many years the competency he so well deserves.

Early in his successful business life — 1861 — he built a worthy home on the brow of the hill overlooking the village of West Acton, which commands a glorious view of the surrounding country. Here his children grew up, and here he still resides.

He has been prominently identified with the Universalist Parish in West Acton, and was one of three to contribute a large sum toward the erection of its present meeting-house.

In all the village and town improvements, Mr. Wright has always shown a lively interest and a generous help.

Lyceum and temperance, school and library, have found in him a firm friend and a most liberal patron.

Though Mr. Wright never sought prominence in social or town affairs any more than in his business career, yet he was chosen vice-president, and afterwards president of the Farmers' Club in West Acton, and served as chairman of the building committee in the erection of the present commodious school-house in the same village.

In the Legislature of 1874, he represented the towns of Acton, Wayland, and Sudbury, as a Republican, with credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of his constituents.

Mr. Wright is keenly alive to the times: is still active in business, and is no less enthusiastic in his support of the principles of Tariff Revision than he was in '48, when his party, at the National Free Soil Convention, at Buffalo, after successfully balloting for a Presidential candidate, adjourned with the allying cry, "Van Buren and Free Soil, Adams and Liberty."





